

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter August 2018



Ready to leave the top of Branch Road Walkway for the return to Pohangina. [Warren Wheeler]

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 a cuppa before start at 7.30pm.

9 August 2018

What's Up Doc?

Nicole Sutton

Nicole is the Manawatu District team's Community Senior Ranger/Supervisor. Prior to moving to the Manawatu (two years ago) she was involved in a decade long research project monitoring kiwi, fantails, and whio to see if they benefited from large scale aerial 1080 operations. Like the Northern Rauhine Ranges, Tongariro Forest has stoat trapping for whio protection, along with aerial 1080 for whole ecosystem protection. This research is about to be published in the journal Notornis.

30 August 2018

Club Photo Competition

Martin Lawrence

Taken any good photos lately? Enter them in our annual photo competition and let our expert judge decide the best three images in each category - an audience vote (show of hands) will then determine first, second and third places. Place-getters in each category will be entered in the FMC Competition and the Interclub Photo Competition. See Notices inside for the categories and other details.

Upcoming Trips

4-5 August

Tony Gates Memorial Trip M/F
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Howletts Hut is looked after by Heretaunga Tramping Club and is arguably the nicest spot to stay in the Ruahines, especially with winter snow on the tops. From Kashmir Road it is about 2-3 hrs to Daphne Hut and then another 3 hrs up the ridge to Howletts. Possibility of a foray further up to Tiraha and views along Sawtooth Ridge and beyond. Return option via the tops to Longview Hut. BYO coal optional. Depart 7.00am. (see reprinted Trip Report from October 2003).

5 August

Waitare Beach & Forest Walk M
Janet Wilson 329 4722

Leaving PN 8.30am. Come and explore the Waitare Forest and coast north to the Manawatu Estuary – even if the weather is rough we should find shelter in the forest. We will have a look for the remains of the Hydrabad. Should be out for 4-6 hours – dogs welcome on this walk.

8 August (Wednesday)

Snowcraft 3 Briefing and Ropework
Dieter Stalman 027 450 9460

For participants and instructors. See Notices.

11-12 August

Snowcraft 3 I
Dieter Stalman 027 450 9460

See Notices below for details.

12 August

Summerhill and Beyond E/M
Anne Lawrence 357 1695

We'll set off from the carpark off Fitzherbert Avenue by the bridge at 8am, heading to the top of the Anzac Cliffs to do the new steps down to the river and back up to Vaucluse Heights. We can check if the claimed number of steps (225) is correct. After that we will explore as much of the network of walkways around Summerhill as we want. Morning tea at Rendezvous is a distinct possibility before we head back across the bridge.

18-19 August

Powell Hut M
Kathy Corner 027 618 5722

This a very popular hut in the eastern Tararuas. It's about a 4 hour climb and if it is fine we can climb Mt Holdsworth. With any luck there could be snow about. Leave from Milverton Park at 8am.

18 or 19 August (Best Weather Day)

Paekakariki Escarpment Walkway M
Woody Lee 021 0444 552

This 10km section of the Te Araroa Trail runs between Paekakariki and Pukerua Bay. We are starting from Paekakariki and heading south to Pukerua Bay and then returning by train. Depart Milverton Park at 8 am.

25-26 August

Kime Hut and Hector M/F
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

There will hopefully be plenty of snow around on the tops for this trip up to Kime, one of the highest and newest (and coldest?) huts in the Tararuas. After dinner we will travel by the light of the full moon along to Mt Hector, about an hour away. Stunningly beautiful. Depart 7.30 from Milverton Park.

25 or 26 August (Best Weather Day)

The Pinnacles, Ruapehu FE/T
Grant Christian 354 5843

A good trip for those who have recently completed Snowcraft 3 and any others interested in getting the ropes out and climbing some of those pointy things next to the Whakapapa skifield. We will stay up there the night before and if we climb on Saturday may stay Saturday night as well. Let me know by the Sunday prior if you're interested.

1 September

Arapuke MTB
Tina Bishop 027 480 3342

A chance to explore the Arapuke Mountain Bike Park and it's many exciting tracks and views, the catch is we will bike up from the start of the gravel on Scotts Road so a reasonable level of bike fitness is required. What tracks we ride will depend on your ability. Please phone or Txt 027 480 3342.

2 September

Beginners to Atiwhakatu E
Kathy Corner 027 618 5722

This beginners tramp is a great one for families and those new to tramping. Atiwhakatu Hut is in the eastern Tararuas near Masterton. It takes 2 to 3 hours to tramp to the hut following the Atiwhakatu Stream. It is a beautiful walk through beech forest. We will have lunch at the hut and return the same way. Meet at Milverton Park at 8am.

8-9 September

Coast Ride MTB
Richard Lockett 323 0948

Ride around the coast from Wharekauhau to Orangaranga at Palliser Bay returning to stay

at Corner Creek DOC camp site and with a trip across the Rimutaka Incline Rail Trail from Maymorn Station across to Cross Creek via Tunnel Gully and Summit. 7.30 start from Milverton Park.

9 September

Te Atuaoparapara/Waipawa Loop M/F Warren Wheeler 356 1998

On a clear day you can see forever (almost) from this high point opposite Sunrise Hut. If the weather does not favour a full Fit loop via Waipawa Saddle we will instead go down the north branch of the Waipawa for a Medium loop. Depart 6.30.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient tramp 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.

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
Anne and Martin Lawrence	357-1695
Graeme Richards	353-6227

Notices

PNTMC Photo Competition 30 August 2018

You need to be in to win!

And for those who haven't had a placing in our photo competitions, you can enter your photos in the Novice category. A photo entered in the Novice category can also be entered in any one of the other 7 categories.

Rules

- Only digital entries accepted
- No previous entries
- Images must be related to tramping, climbing or trekking
- Limit 3 images per category (per person)
- Images must be clearly labelled

Categories

- Above Bushline (with no human element)
- Above Bushline (with a human element)
- Below the Bushline (with no human element)
- Below the Bushline (with a human element)
- Natural History (NZ flora, fauna, geology, etc)
- Topical NZ (people or detail)
- Overseas (people and/or places)
- Novice - any of the above subjects

The definition of a "human element" includes people or anything else that is man-mind such as a track, hut, bridge, ice axe etc. However, if the "human element" is very small and not a major feature in the photo e.g. a track marker or distant hut, then it would count as "no human element".

Deadline Sunday 26 August

Please get your entries to Martin Lawrence by email (martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com) or call him on 357-1695 to drop off your images on CD or pen drive.

Notes

Winning images will be entered in the Interclub Photo Competition, to be hosted this year by PNTMC on Thursday 27 September, and the FMC Photo Competition 2018. In addition, some of these images may be used to promote PNTMC. Please indicate if you do not want your images used in these activities. Images remain the property of the photographers.

From the President

A brief "hello everyone" from your President this month - house renovations and various Blue Duck activities have been occupying my time recently. Speaking of which, the "Whio year" has just ended at the end of June and as the coordinator of the Oroua/Pohangina Blue Duck Protection Projects it is time to have a count up and to put together my annual report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the club members that have volunteered over the year. Club members have contributed over 40 person-days to rebaiting traps for the Oroua project and it would add up to a similar amount of time for the Pohangina River too. So well done and thank you to everyone who had given up their time to support these projects. If you are in need of some motivation, volunteering can give you a great excuse to get out in to the hills.

Happy Tramping Everyone
Janet

Snowcraft



Snowcraft 2018 Programme

Learn safe mountaineering skills with us this winter.

Why put aside your tramping boots just because it's winter and there is snow on the top of the local ranges?

Have you been wanting to do some South Island tramping that involves crossing snow covered passes?

Do you want to learn the skills of basic snow and ice climbing using the correct equipment?

Learn new skills or upgrade your current ones by enrolling in PNTMC's Snowcraft Instruction programme.

14-15 July The Basics - Snowcraft 1 (SC1)

Enjoy the alpine snow slopes? Are you confident that you understand the special requirements of travelling safely on snow?

Learn to confidently walk on snow, use an ice axe, cut steps and use crampons. What if I fall? Master self arresting and more ...

28-29 July Building on the Basics - Snowcraft 2 (SC2)

Learn the important skills of rope work, anchors, belays and the basics of snow and ice climbing. Begin the rudiments of alpine climbing and avalanche awareness.

11-12 August Alpine Climbing - extend your skills - Snowcraft 3 (SC3)

Get a more complete set of skills for alpine climbing. Practice makes perfect. Tackle the snow slopes, glaciers and peaks. Prepare yourself for the magic of the Southern Alps.

Interested?

Each level is a prerequisite for the next. However, some participants may find completing SC1, or the first two levels, adequate for their intended outdoor activities.

Others may want to advance through SC3 and beyond. Some may wish to do SC1 this winter and SC2 next winter, or refresh their skills. Some people with previous snow or alpine experience may enter at SC2.

Note that on the Wednesday preceding each weekend there will be an Intro and Briefing / Ropework Evening held at the Quakers Hall, 227 College St, PN.

Costs for each weekend

The fee covers weeknight venue, transport (if required), gear hire, accommodation for Friday and Saturday nights and instruction. Meals will be your own responsibility.

Members \$90
Non-members \$100
(Deduct \$25 if using your own transport).

For more information on costs etc please visit our website [Snowcraft](#) page or contact the course organisers Dieter Stalman 027 450 9460, or Grant Christian (06) 354-5843.

Huts and High Places PNTMC Challenge 2018

Huts and High Places Challenge 15 Dec 2017 to 9 Dec 2018

Our PNTMC Challenge 2018 aims to inspire you to visit new places, support our club and have fun in the hills.

There are points to be earned for visits, bonus points for new places and bonus points if you are on a PNTMC trip.

To add more challenges to the fun, committee members have added their own challenges. Points for these can only be earned once.

Points for huts and high places

Visit to DOC or NZAC hut 1 point
Visit a named high point 1 point

Bonus points for each hut or high point

If a club trip 1/2 point
If your first visit 1/2 point

Bonus points for Committee Challenges

For a bonus of 5 points (once for each challenge):

- Pack float or swim a pool on a river (Warren's Challenge)
- Go on a club organised beginners trip (Anne's Challenge)
- Photograph a whio (Janet's challenge)
- Summit Tahurangi - Mt Ruapehu (Grant's Challenge)
- Visit Ngamoko or Mid Pohangina Hut (Martin's Challenge)
- Visit 3 or more huts on a trip (Graeme's Challenge)
- Camp above 2000m - not near a hut (Bruce's Challenge)
- Hut warden at Rangi Hut (Committee Challenge)
- Bring a new tramper on a club trip (Woody's Challenge)

Points to be gained fairly while visiting the DOC estate and in the spirit of the Challenge - talk to Janet or committee members if in doubt.

There is no restriction on how you can get to these places i.e. helicopters, boats, bikes etc acceptable.

Send your trip details, places visited etc to Janet or add them to the online spreadsheet which is now up and running for this challenge.

Points to Date

Not a lot of change this month – will Elly sustain her seemingly unassailable lead over the next 4 months?

Name	Huts	Highs	Bonus	TOTAL
Elly	98.5	104.5	20	221.5
Chris T	82.5	83	20	184
Grant	25.5	42.5	15	83
Warren	25.5	14.5	30	70
Hannah	27	35.5	5	67.5
Ash	17.5	41	5	63.5
Janet	34.5	14	15	63.5
Graham	25.5	15	15	55.5
Martin	17	12	15	44
Kathy	19.5	2.5	15	37
Mary	20.5	11	5	36.5
Annett	1.5	30	0	31.5
Anne	11	12	5	28
Bruce	6	5	10	21
Woody	14	3	5	22
Dieter	4	2	10	16
Sally	3.5	4	0	7.5
Yvonne	0	4	0	4
Dave	1.5	0	0	1.5

Hut Bagging Posters

Would you like a copy of our Ruahine or Taranui Hut Bagging posters?

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 Mid-Pohangina and Ngamoko Huts.

Contact Warren 356-1998.

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.

Trip Reports

5 May 2018
Sunrise Hut
Kathy Corner

We were an international group setting off for a day trip to Sunrise Hut - the Corner Family (Kathy, Jon, Brendon and Nicola), Woody and his wife Jo and the "Fonterra Family" (Ryohei, Jun, Cai, Peijun) - and of course Warren.

What I like about trips with the tramping club is that you never know who you will meet. We often have international students on our trips and it is always interesting to chat to them. On this occasion we had two young ladies from China, (interns at Fonterra who were studying in Holland) and 2 young guys from Korea and Japan.

The Chinese girls were commenting on the cold at the carpark, so I warned them it would get a lot colder and lent one of them my warm jacket.

It is always a lovely walk through the beech forest to Sunrise Hut, and of course we were rewarded with a beautiful view at the top. After lunch we ventured up to the Armstrong Saddle in the wind, with all our layers on. The guys from Korea and Japan had very few layers on but they didn't complain - very tough!

Although there was no view of Ruapehu, there was still a view of sorts and Warren took a great shot of us all (see front page of the June newsletter). We all read the sign about the crashed plane at this site and the missing pilot Armstrong hence the name of the saddle.

There was much discussion on the way back down to the car, with different people pairing up and chatting about China and many other topics.



Braving the wind along to Armstrong Saddle.

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.

(Also makes a nice gift to friends and family who might otherwise wonder why you enjoy tramping so much!)

Gear Review

Gough Gear Waterproof First Aid Kit
Reviewed by Kathy Corner

The best thing about this first aid kit was the light weight waterproof bag. However, when comparing the contents and price with other first aid kits it lacked a few items for example no crepe bandage, only one saline solution, no splinter probes and a pair of plastic forceps which I could see had little purpose. I would like to have seen some sealed wound dressings for example those with a waterproof cover so then there is no need for micropore.



Like other first aid kits of similar size it had a First Aid guidance leaflet and an Instant Ice Pack. The good aspect of this kit was that it contained an emergency blanket, but I feel many of us may already have one of these as an addition to our first aid kits.

Gough Gear is offering it to us for \$28.47 plus PP - if we buy 5 we get free PP. Comparable First Aid kits of this size are about \$35, so it is good value, and could easily be added to, however that would mean you would run out of space in the bag, unless you removed the emergency blanket.

A sample kit will be available at club nights for your inspection. If there is sufficient interest we will make up a club order. Otherwise contact Jackie or David at Gough Gear by email: admin@goughgear.com.

20 May 2018
Arapuke Loop
Woody Lee

It was a windy overcast day and Kahuterawa road end carpark was not busy. We started the loop track clockwise from the Sledge Track. When we arrived at the swing bridge it started a light shower but we still had morning tea at the picnic table near the bridge.

After crossing the swing bridge we went uphill at a slow pace. The temperature got much cooler and the wind picked up on the Arapuke track. We decided to take Checkpoint Charlie as a short cut. We missed out Arapuke Road, instead we took Pupu Rahi track (new side bike track) from the Zig Zag road junction to make an enjoyable day walk.

We arrived back at the car park after mid-day.

We were Duncan, Warren, Mark, Rebecca, Julie, Roxanne, Hun, Ryohei, Pam, and Woody (leader).



A bit windy at Checkpoint Charlie.

30 June-1 July 2018
Penn Creek
Christian Offen

Starting from Otaki Forks on a cloudy Saturday, Mark, Warren and I went off for an overnight trip to Penn Creek Hut. Since we could not expect good views from the summit of Table Top, our attention focused on climbing plants in the forest while going up Fields Track. Winding around trees, they form a spiral. Adding a scientific value to our hike, Warren suggested that the orientation is determined by the movement of the sun. I will check this when being over in Europe where the plants should form a spiral oriented in the opposite direction.

As our lunch break would have to be at Table Top (by definition), we only took a short break at Field Hut, found our way to the summit and descended a bit to a wind sheltered place for lunch. After a steep descent to cosy Penn Creek Hut, we were not done yet with our exercise for the day but chopped wood to add to the stock at the hut. When we finally had got the fire going, we enjoyed our dinner and had a good sleep in a nice, warm hut.



Hurray, we have got the fire going!

Climbing back up steeply to Table Top the next day, we got warm and wet. Luckily, I had asked Warren for a waterproof bag for my phone before leaving from Palmy. On this Sunday the bag was absolutely necessary given that I had lost another phone to the rain in the Tararuas before. However, we were not the only keen hikers braving the elements: taking our lunch break sheltered at Field Hut, we learned from another hiker that as many as 13 people had stayed there the night before and this figure even excludes the man-high portraits in the hut watching us during our break.

It stopped raining, we descended to the car park and stopped for a well-deserved coffee in a neat café on the way back to Palmy. Many thanks to Warren for organising this lovely tramp! The three of us were Warren, Mark and Christian.

7 July 2018
Top Maropea (or Gust)
Peter Thorstensen

After some quick introductions as I got picked up, we were on our way to the Wakararas. The three of us arrived at the carpark ready for a good climb and loaded up with everything we

needed for an overnight stay. It was fine, but very windy.

We reached Sunrise Hut in just under two hours, coming across patches of snow on the last part of the track.

Warren said on the way up, that the forecast was for wind of 5-10 metres per second, although after seeing the tussock being blown flat, we decided they must have taken that reading from inside the hut !

After a leisurely lunch at Sunrise Hut we ventured forth towards Top Marapea Hut.

Once we left the shelter of the leatherwood we got hit for six by the gale force winds, around 100km per hour, blowing across Armstrong Saddle.



Bracing against the severe gusts. [WW]

After several unintentional attempts to fly (one ending spread eagle across an old tree stump) it was decided that the safest option was to return home after a stop at Sunrise Hut to check on my scraped and bleeding knee.

After a much less windy walk back down to the carpark, passing a number of people heading up the track, I was able to relax in the back seat as we heading for home.

For my first proper tramp in over 25 years (kids and family got in the way for a bit) I had a great day out and am looking forward to having another crack at Top Marapea Hut, when the wind is a little less intense.

We were: Peter Thorstensen, Warren Wheeler and Mark LeBas.

[This was meant to be an overnight trip - Ed.]

15 July 2018 Rangi Hut Doug Strachan

*Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I,
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.*
(Christina Rossetti, 19th century British poet)

I warned the assembled group that the Norwegian Met Service had forecast moderate winds of 9m/s for Rangi Hut. Ewen was a step ahead of me, having already taken this figure and multiplied it by 3.6 to get the speed in kph (and I even overheard him and Robbie discussing the wind speed in knots). Whatever your preferred units, the wind was strong enough at the hut to elicit the old “huts that have blown away” topic of conversation. The wind chill factor, however, was of no great concern as it was warm for the middle of winter. No snow. No rain.



Hello from Rangi Bridge [Woody Lee]

At the hut we shared chocolate, liquorice, and Chinese meat sweets. Lunched. Minami found me in the photo on the wall, taken about 30yrs ago, and said, “Daddy, your hair’s darker in the photo”.



Here we are at Rangi Hut [Minami Strachan]

An hour and 50mins up, 50mins down. Back at the carpark, we were blown away by the absence of wind, which had been present when we alighted from the cars several hours earlier.

We passed a potter of pukekos on the drive out, which seemed fitting giving that we'd passed 'Christmas dinners' (turkeys) on the drive in and had seen the tui paintings on the loo walls at the hut.

Our flock: Robbie Green, Ewen Cameron, Amy Yang, Weiping Liu, Woody & Jo Lee, Sally Hewson, Doug + Minami + Conan Strachan.

Snowcraft Instructors Course

7-8 July 2018

Snowcraft Instructors Course Report by Bruce van Brunt

In preparation for the Snowcraft courses this year, it was decided by the club to fund a course for snowcraft instructors. The course was tailored for our instructors and the Snowcraft programme run by the club.

Specifically, the purpose of this course was to:

1. Update instructors on newer climbing practices and techniques;
2. Learn new ways and techniques to teach snowcraft students ; and
3. Review our current Snowcraft curriculum and update/ change as needed.

Under the auspices of the Hillary Outdoors Centre we hired the Taranaki guide Don Paterson to give a two-day course on Ruapehu. The number of students was limited to four. The students were Grant Christian, Malcolm Leary, Dieter Stalman and Bruce van Brunt.

We left Friday night for Sue Pither's house near Ohakune. We arrived that evening and sorted out our gear for the next day. Don met us at Sue's place on Saturday morning and after introductions we went up to Turoa. Originally, Don had arranged a lift pass for us to get up high quickly and begin instruction. As it turned out, however, the weather was not cooperative. The winds were strong and as a result the ski field was closing down. Nonetheless, there was plenty of snow near

the carpark so that we could have a full day on the mountain.

Don demonstrated how to introduce people to the snow stressing the need for a stable platform. We did not use crampons the entire day, but we did go through various sequences of self-arresting and constructing anchors. Key information included how to sequence the teaching so that students do not have to "unlearn" things later. In addition, he showed the newer practice of compacting snow for anchors among other techniques.

The weather never improved on Saturday and we found that the nearby Café was closed. The tables outside were being put away as they were expecting very high winds by Sunday. We got our full use of the mountain on Saturday, but were happy to get down in the late afternoon.

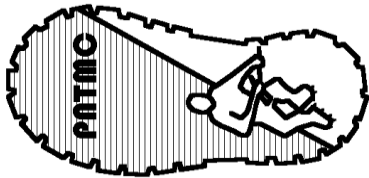
It was apparent on Saturday that the conditions on the mountain would be horrible on Sunday. We had a nice supper at a pub in Ohakune that night with Don. The forecast for Sunday was pretty accurate - it was windy even down at Ohakune.

We used Sunday to go over rope work at Sue's house. We worked on belaying techniques, escaping the system and setting multiple anchors. We also discussed our current Snowcraft curriculum with Don and received many valuable suggestions. Despite the poor weather we managed to cover a lot of material and achieve our goals.

A huge thanks goes to the club for sponsoring this course and to Sue for letting us use her house.



Thanks Don - happy SC1 students the next weekend.
Pic by Dieter Stalman



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PNTMC Newsletter August 2018

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- Top Maropea or Gust – blown back home
- Rangl Hut – a classic Ruahine day trip
- Snowcraft Instructors Course Report
- 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!

PNTMC Contacts

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