



Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter November 2019



These pics taken by Roy Ralston show progress on the Iron Gate Hut build as at the middle of October. Due to be finished in November but finish date is very weather dependent.

Club Nights

Club nights are held on the second and last Thursday of the 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. All welcome.

14 Nov 2019

BYO pics

Martin Lawrence

Show us what you have been up to over the last 6 months or so - out there, tramping and mountaineering.

28 Nov 2019

Lewis and Arthurs Pass adventures

Chris Tuffley

Last summer Chris had two trips south, walking the classic Three Passes Route in Arthurs Pass with a friend from California, and traversing the Nina, Blue Grey, and Doubtful valleys in the Lewis Pass area with Elly Arnst. They do mountains bigger down there! Come and see photos of what Te Wai Pounamu has to offer.

Upcoming Trips

Sat 2 November

Bird Atlas Training tramp All
Stephen Legg 027 647 0095

Learn how to use eBird and get in some practice contributing to the Bird Atlas. The plan is to do the Manawatu Gorge loop track and Ashhurst domain.

Sat 2 – Sun 3 November

Maropea Forks M/F
Chris Tuffley 359 2530

A lovely spot, with a good chance of spotting whio. Weather permitting we'll do a loop traversing both branches of the Maropea River, going in past Sunrise and along the tops to drop into the north branch, and coming out the south branch past Top Maropea. We'll check out the new traps installed along the river in May on our way by.

Sun 3 November

Sunrise Hut E
Anne Lawrence 357 1695

This is the second in our Beginner Tramp series. We are going to Sunrise hut with an extension to Armstrong Saddle for those interested. We'll leave from Milverton Park at 7.30am.

Sat 9 – Sun 10 November

Cow Creek M
Janet Wilson 329 4722

Depart PN 730. This is a medium tramp via Blue Range Hut. If we get there early enough we can explore the ridge towards Table Top – an alternative to the Arete Forks track and food for thought for longer trips. Plenty of camping at Cow Creek if the hut happens to be full. Small possibility of seeing the elusive lone Tararua Whio. Contact Janet by Wednesday evening please.

Sun 10 November

Te Mara & Blue Range Hut E/M
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

An easy but steady uphill track to the iconic Blue Range Hut in the eastern Tararua Forest Park. Te Mara high point is a short

side trip along an old ridge track. Leave Milverton Park at 8.00am.

Sat 16 – Sun 17 November

Top Gorge M
Janet Wilson 329 4722

A medium trip to this classic upper Pohangina River Hut. Come and explore some interesting country – a good chance to see whio. We will be working with the self-resetting traps that are in the area. This is also a good introduction to river tramping as the river is not too large in the upper catchment. We will go via Longview Hut. I would prefer to leave on the Friday afternoon/evening but am negotiable. Departure time TBA – indicate your interest early please.

Sat 16 or Sun 17 November (BWD)

Mid-Waiohine Hut F
Ange Minto 027 472 0660

Meet Mt Holdsworth carpark earlyish. We head up over Mt Holdsworth (visiting the new Powell Hut on route), over Isabelle and a 900m steep descent down to the Hut alongside the Waiohine river.

If no takers for a fit day trip, will consider an overnight option. Accommodation available at Ange's place.

Sat 23 – Sun 24 November

Makeretu Hut M
Richard Lockett 323 0948

Makeretu Hut some say is the best hut in the Ruahine's, up on a terrace between the confluence of two mountain streams positioned for the morning sun, just a lovely spot. Plenty of hut and high places points to bag on this trip! Depart 7.30am.

Sat or Sun (BWD) 23/24 November

North Mangahao Biv F
Chris Tuffley 359 2530

Bagged North Mangahao Biv yet? Now's your chance! This elusive biv is often one of the last visited by Tararua hut baggers; it certainly won't have helped that maps used to show it in the wrong place... We'll take the more intrepid approach to the hut, coming in from the west from Scotts Road. Leaving early.

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)	

BWD = Best weather day of a weekend Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips usually 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.

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:

Anne & Martin Lawrence 357 1695
Graeme Richards 353 6227

Notices

Rescue Coordination Centre
John Ashby

PNTMC members are invited to join Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club at their November Club night (Tuesday 5 November, 7.30pm, Rose City Aquatic Club rooms, Park Road) to hear John Ashby from Rescue Coordination Centre NZ speak. His blurb is below.

What happens when you activate a PLB? John Ashby is a Senior Search and Rescue Officer at the Rescue Coordination Centre NZ where he has worked for the past 15 years. In the role he has acted as a Search Mission Coordinator for major sea, land

and air-based incidents. John will present a brief overview of RCCNZ and the SAR system, talk about activation and use of Personal Locator Beacons, and discuss some real-life saving scenarios.

PLBs

The club has two personal locator beacons (PLBs) for members' use. If you want to take one of these on a trip, contact Martin or Anne Lawrence on 357 1695. There is no cost to use these. This applies to any trip you are going on - it doesn't need to be a club trip.

Upcoming Trip Card (Jan - June 2020)

- Where would you like to go?
- Are you prepared to lead a trip?
- What instruction courses would you like to attend or lead?

Talk to Anne Lawrence or Janet Wilson about your ideas.

FMC News



A list of providers who give discounts to FMC members is available at

<https://www.fmc.org.nz/discount-card/>

A reminder that the closing date for applications for FMC scholarships is **20 September 2019**.

PNTMC Challenge 2019

Huts and High Places Challenge AGM 2019 to AGM 2020

Janet is currently in the lead, hotly pursued by Elly. Chris Tuffley, Warren, Michelle and Graham are doing their best to catch up!

You can update your points by entering trip details, places visited etc in the online spreadsheet. Contact Martin if you have any problems with this.

Interclub Photo Competition

Congratulations to the winners of the 2019 Interclub Photo Competition, hosted by MTSC on 1 October 2019. There were some stunning images from all three clubs.

Above Bushline No human element	
1st	PNTMC - Elly Arnst - Tararua Sunset
2nd	PNTMC - Chris Tuffley - Tongariro West Ridge
3rd	MTSC - Richard Lander - Red Crater
Above Bushline With human element	
1st	PNTMC - Elly Arnst - Dominie Snow
2nd	MUAC - Abby Hodgkinson - View From The Top
3rd	PNTMC - Chris Tuffley - A Mere Speck
Below Bushline No human element	
1st	MTSC - Richard Lander - Lake Ruataniwha
2nd	MTSC - Louise Lahmert - Red Sky At Night Shepherd's Delight
3rd	PNTMC - Elly Arnst - Nina Valley
Below Bushline With human element	
1st	PNTMC - Lynette Price - The Foot Of Tasman Glacier And Its Lake
2nd	MUAC - Wako Tanaka - View From The Tent
3rd	MTSC - Andrea Hall - Waitewaewae Track
Historical	
1st	MTSC - Richard Lander - Dome Shelter Mt Ruapehu
2nd	MTSC - Helen Peek - Old Waihohonu Hut January 1983
3rd	MTSC - Richard Lander - Church Of The Good Shepherd
Native Flora and Fauna	
1st	MTSC - Maria Lombard - Whaaat?!
2nd	PNTMC - Elly Arnst - Daisy Balloons
3rd	PNTMC - Korimako - Chris Tuffley
Long Exposure	
1st	MUAC - Maurice Heilijgers
2nd	PNTMC - Chris Tuffley - Raining Stars At Gerhardt Spur
3rd	MTSC - Wanaka Tree - Richard Lander

Trip Reports.

Cattle Creek Hut 19/20 October 2019 Report and pics: Jo O'Halloran

We set out in Michelle's wonderfully comfortable 8-seater car to Cattle Ridge hut, on an overcast day, with weather predictions of rain and high winds. We were not deterred! The creeks were up a bit as there had been a lot of rain in the Hawke's Bay area over the past week. 1 or 2 of us managed to keep our feet dry with some quick footwork. A bit of uphill got us onto Cattle Ridge where we were met with winds that were strong enough to blow us off our feet. The quick steep descent down to Cattle Ridge Creek hut was uneventful and it was wonderful to reach the shelter of the bright orange hut.



The wind howled around the hut, the rain and mist came and went through the valley clearing long enough for Janet and Ernie to have a scout around the stream for whio. Ernie cut firewood and lit the fire which gave us a welcome warmth, drying out our soaking wet raincoats and socks. Cattle Ridge Hut is infamous for the howling noise of the wind and the flapping of tin keeping one awake at night. We woke to a clearer sky, less wind, enabling another quick search for sign of whio. On the top of the ridge we could see out to the Hawkes Bay.



Our travel back down to Stanfield Hut was easy. We were able to enjoy the clematis and the lemonwood in flower with butterflies in sight. We had an enjoyable lunch break sunbathing out of the breeze before dropping down to the car park.

A great trip had by all - a good stretch of the legs to be finished off with chocolate cake, coffee, and plum/apple home-made pie in Woodville.

We were Janet, Michelle, Ernie, Jo and Lawrence.



2Y's 2 YTTY
21-22 September 2019
Report: Michelle Benton
Pics: Warren Wheeler

On the drive to Otaki Forks Warren pointed out that we are best described as "wiser" not "older" trampers, which I felt was an excellent attitude with which to approach our weekend walk into Waitewaewae Hut and out again.



We popped into Parawai Lodge and set off for a 7.5 hour jaunt to Waitewaewae hut. This was made much more interesting by ignoring the 'new' diversion track above the large slip and just following a couple of goats across the slip face and then bashing our way down through a few thickets of supplejack to rediscover the 'old' track



There was lots of dementia-defying-discernment and agility needed to navigate a considerable amount of treefall and slippage obscuring the track in places but we are wise trampers and enjoyed it all immensely, especially with such lovely weather.



We spent some time comparing our paper maps with NZTopo50N on my phone, trying to work out exactly where we might find the named high point Plateau on the way, but the lack of agreement between the maps and the terrain saw us give it up as a bad job and forgo the points.



There is a shocking untruth printed on the sign at the junction of the low flow route and the wet weather sidle to the hut, clearly saying that there is a mere 10 minutes extra effort required to arrive at the hut with dry feet. It took us 50 minutes and the bunch of much younger trampers already ensconced in the hut when we arrived had also taken much longer than the 30 minutes on the sign.



We took about 20 mins the next morning to make the two chilly crossings of the river and come up the low flow route. Homeward bound we took the high road across the 'new' track and arrived back at the carpark 6 hours after breakfast. There were no races horses named 11 or 22 on the track but the 2Ys were Warren Wheeler and Michelle Benton.

The Pine Pulling Posse do te Araroa 29 September 2019

Report: Fiona Burleigh

Pics: Anthony Behrens

Three of us set off on Saturday afternoon for the Burton's track pine pulling expedition.

First up to Scotts road we went, then a 40 minute walk through Gordon Kear forest led us to the new Motu Rimu shelter. It's only called a shelter because it has no door, otherwise it is a fully-fledged tramping hut with a luxury sleeping platform, bench and hut book. This has been put in by the PNCC and te Araroa trust to give a campsite one (solid) days walk from Palmerston North. The new first-class longdrop was inspected, and a climb up to the lake above brought on plans for summer bike packing, rubber tyres and aquanauting.



A fast trot back to the car and a drive to Shannon, up past Mangahao powerstation and over to Tokomaru valley road....the other end of Burton's track.



We set up camp in the new Tokomaru shelter. This one has a door, a table and chairs and an out-house. Said faculty cannily disguised as a garden shed.



Our evening was social and we bunked down on the cold concrete floor. This shelter was an old farm implement shed. It has been reframed and clad in steel by the Army engineers. Since our visit another luxury sleeping platform has been installed. Thank heavens.

After breakfast we set off North along the track to the old formed road that becomes Burton's track and began the gorse and blackberry assault. This part of te Araroa has seen little maintenance since it was first put in in 2005. What was a cleared road is now a tunnel of gorse. No pine pulling was committed. Anthony deployed his new samurai Silky the Katana boy 500. Fiona and Richard had smaller but still effective weapons.



After three hours we were suitably knackered and soaked through with the rain. One hundred meters cleared. Is that all? It felt like more! Lunch, a hot drink and dry clothes were needed and we headed home. Happy to have bagged two new huts in our area and feeling a part of the te Araroa community.



Since this trip, a further 200 m has been dealt to and more expeditions are planned... Though rumour has it that DOC will be there late October to continue our work.

We only need a more suitable name. Perhaps the Gordon Kear Gorse Garotors or the Geriatric Gorse guzzling Gang.

We were Fiona Burleigh, Anthony Behrens and Richard Lockett.

Kaipororo
29 September 2019
Report: Anne Lawrence
Pics: Warren Wheeler

Thanks to Michelle for taking us on a track that the rest of us had not been on before.

The biggest challenge was presented by the river that runs between the carpark and the start of the track. Martin and Anne ploughed through and confirmed that, yes, the water was rather chilly. Michelle opted to wade and carry her boots. Warren and Janet took their time finding a spot where they could cross with dry feet.

The track starts inauspiciously with a clamber over piles of logs left by tree fellers... and yes, a dropped waterbottle to be retrieved. Martin's long arms wouldn't reach it, but this didn't stop Janet!



A bit of a squeeze but not much of a challenge for a caver!



With bottle rescued and secured to Michelle's pack, we headed off again. Initially there is just a logging track to follow up into the bush. Then the track branches off and climbs steadily up to the lookout. The track was easy to follow, the bush was pleasant, but there was not a lot to see from the lookout – some cloud, a bit of rubbish to clear but that was about it.



Next we headed off down to see if we can find the site of the plane wreck. Not far back from the trig, there is side track which is (fairly) well-marked with tape. It didn't take much clambering to find the plane wreck. While Michelle gave the pilot's grave a tidy up, the rest of us explored the area, finding a surprising amount of plane wreckage scattered about.



Climbing back up to the main track and back down to the car took very little time. Crossing the river, Janet wanted to test out her new boots – and yes, they did keep her feet dry! The next big decision was whether to have our lunches there, or head to Mt Bruce for a café stop. The café won and we dined well before heading home.

We were: Michelle Benton, Warren Wheeler, Janet Wilson, Martin and Anne Lawrence.

**The first Beginner Tramp to Atiwhakatu
6 October 2019
Report: Sharon Ryan
Pics: Martin Lawrence**

Seeing the email come into my inbox asking if anyone would be interested in

doing a 'Beginners Tramp' early October, I jumped at the idea and immediately replied to Anne.

A group of us met at Milverton Park on the Sunday morning at 7:30am, which after a night of heavy rain and wind, turned out to be a stunning day. For a 'newbies' first tramp we could not have asked for a better day. We had quite a good turn out with 9 newbies, myself included, as well as a good number of experienced trampers. Anne kindly pre-arranged carpooling and we all jumped into our vehicles at 7:40am for the drive to Mount Holdsworth in the Wairarapa.



Our destination was Atiwhakatu Hut. When we arrived at Mt Holdsworth we had a briefing by Anne as to what we should expect in regards to time that the tramp will take, terrain and weather conditions and the number of bridges that will be crossed. I didn't realise how important knowing how many bridges were to be crossed until we came across the swing bridges.

The walk started well with Anne leading in the front, setting a good pace for the group. The track starts off well-formed and surprisingly dry after all the rain we had, with a beautiful boardwalk which protects the plants and critters living underneath. After an hour or so the track becomes more track like, having to step over tree roots and lots of mud and water puddles. One part of the track was actually like a small river with water flowing down.

The scenery was amazing, and the other trampers were so friendly and kind, with the more experienced trampers sharing their experiences and their advice to anyone

that would listen. We heard plenty of birds singing, but there were not many to be sighted which was a shame.

We stopped for a brief morning tea rest, slightly off the track which gave us a few minutes to stop and enjoy the amazing scenery into the gully below. Dappled sun light shone through the leaves above us and it was great to be able to chat to people without the huffing and puffing for us beginners.

After morning tea, we continued on the walk, having to detour of the normal path due to a slip, and we ended up walking along the river before making our way back uphill a little to get on to the path. The variety of the terrain made the walk all the more interesting. For a newbie it was challenging enough that it made you think and you used muscles you had forgotten you had, but it was easy enough that you could do the walk comfortably. We had to cross a couple of swing bridges, which most definitely are not my favourite due to my fear of heights. Thankfully Anne was on hand to help me focus to get across, and Warren gave me advice as one tall person to another to slightly crouch down as you cross. I don't know if he was serious or not, but I was willing to give anything a go on the way back.

After about 2½ hours we made it to Atiwhakatu Hut where we were able to stop for a well-deserved lunch break, and to have a chance to spend time with the other trampers in our group and listen to the stories of the more experienced trampers. It was also a great time to check out the hut and the view. We met some other trampers and some very friendly dogs who were happy to pop around and say their hello's to our group.

Once lunch was done, we packed up our gear, making sure to take with us all that we had brought in, leaving nothing but our footprints. We are responsible trampers!

On the way back I spent time with Warren who shared his plant and tree expertise with us. He gave us an introduction to plant species, inviting us to taste the horopito

(pepper tree) leaves which I thought tasted like radish, and to crush and smell the leaves of a stinkwood tree. It smelt terrible, like boiled cabbage. Ewww.



We had to cross the dreaded swing bridges again and using Warren's earlier advice I made it across with a smile on my face! I was so surprised that his suggestion worked. The walk back seemed to be much quicker, maybe because there was more downhill, and we made it back to the carpark in about 2 hours.

We all made it back in one piece, some of us had sore feet and will be investing in better boots and shoes for future tramps. We had a de-brief on how we found the tramp and then we got changed, put our packs and gear back in the cars and then all drove to Mt Bruce for a well-deserved beverage before the drive back home.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed the day. The experienced trampers are a great group of people who are ever so helpful, friendly and extremely supported and at no times judge you if you are finding something difficult. We all left Mt Bruce weary, but very happy and very much looking forward to the next 'Beginners Tramp' in early November.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Anne for arranging this day for us all. It was extremely well organised, we had plenty of communication beforehand to ensure we had the right gear for the day, the pre-brief and de-briefs were all done professionally and it was a great bunch of people to spend the day with, whilst being outdoors and being active.

Club members were: Anne and Martin Lawrence, Janet Wilson, Penny Abercrombie, Warren Wheeler, Vern Aldridge, Ernie Cook and Malcolm Parker. Newbies were: Gabrielle Aldridge, Michelle Fremaux, Leandri van der Spuy, Nic Ogier, Carol Joines, Johan Swanepoel, Robyn Christensen, Kate Parker and Sharon Ryan.

Forks Hut
12/13 October 2019
Report and pics: Michelle Benton

Five of us rendezvoused at Graham and Janet's Pohangina home about 11:30 am on Saturday. The weather was perfect for tramping and Graham had gained permission from the farmers to drive all the way up to the airstrip leaving only a short and pleasant stroll to the bush edge and the track to Te Ekaou Hut.



Te Ekaou is very close to the bush edge and there we had a smackerel of lunch, wrote in the hut book and managed to take one photo as proof for our points claim. The track to Forks Hut is easy along the ridge but the final descent to the hut is an excitingly steep climb down a near vertical cliff face. With lots of daylight left we dropped our excess gear in the hut and set

off across the other branch of the stream and up the hill for an exploration.



We found a trail marked with red markers and plenty of evidence of the deer population. Bruce named it Anne's Track in honour of Anne's accidental discovery of it on their last trip in there. We followed it up to the point where it started to descend into a saddle and became much less clear and decided that we were not going to find a deer and that it would be preferable to arrive back at the hut in the light, so retraced our steps. A comfortable night followed with warm food, pleasant conversation and a surprising absence of snoring. Climbing skills were tested by the lack of any ladder to reach the top bunks, but Engki managed by finding toeholds on the door and I stepped from stool to bench to windowsill to clamber up the other end.

In the morning we cleaned up the hut and Engki carried out a large bag of rubbish from the hut left behind by previous occupants, including half a shopping bag of old batteries!

Thanks to Graham Peters for leading us (Roy Ralston, Bruce van Brunt, Engki Weya, and Michelle Benton) on such an enjoyable jaunt.



PNTMC Newsletter November 2019

What's inside this month?

- Club Challenge update
- Trip reports, upcoming trips and more

Articles for the newsletter

Send to Anne Lawrence,
the newsletter editor, via the club website
<http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>.



Find us on facebook
<https://tinyurl.com/pntmcfacbook>

Get out and about with us!

Send to PNTMC
PO Box 1217
Palmerston North

PNTMC Contacts

President	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761
Vice President	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
Secretary	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Treasurer	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Webmasters	Peter Wiles	358 6894
	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
Membership Enquiries	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Gear Custodian	Grant Christian	021 117 6921
Newsletter Editor	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
Trip Co-ordinators	Janet Wilson	329 4722
	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
Snowcraft Programme	Dieter Stalman	027 450 9460