



Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club

www.pntmc.org.nz

PO Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter May 2024



En route from Te Matawai to Mangahao Flats, Tararua Forest Park

Pic from Blair Petersen

Club Nights

Club nights are generally held on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Quakers Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North. Doors open 7.15pm for meeting start at 7.30pm. All welcome.

9 May 2024

Lapland to Spain

Stephen Legg & Kirsten Olsen

In the northern summer of 2023, Stephen and Kirsten visited arctic Lapland and the southernmost tip of Europe. This talk describes one of the world's most scenic train rides (Abisko in Sweden to Narvik in Norway), day walks from Katterat in northern Norway and Abisko, pleasant rambles in England and a day tramp from Capilleira towards Mulhacen (3479m), the highest peak in the Sierra Nevada range in the scenic Alpujarra region, near Granada in southern Spain.

30 May 2024

BYO Pics

Martin Lawrence

Our post-summer Show and Tell of trips done by members over the last six months of so. Bring your pic picks on a memory stick and tell us all about it. Or just come along, enjoy and be inspired.

Upcoming Trips

5 May 2024 Beginners Tramp #4 E/M Robyn Wheeler 06 356 1998

The last in our Beginner series, this time to the Wharite transmission tower at the south end of the Ruahine Ranges. We will follow the Coppermine Creek track then head up the Wharite track through bush to the leatherwood belt, which can be a bit muddy. On a clear day there are 360 degree panoramic views over our local region and beyond. Depart Milverton Park 7.30am.

11-12 May 2024 Sayers Hut M Richard Lockett 06 323 0948

An opportunity to visit this recently refurbished historic hut nestled beside the Waiohine River on the opposite bank to the Totara Flats. Travelling in from the Holdworth Rd end with a tracked route or an off-track route available depending on the weather and choice of the group. Depart Milverton Park 7.30am.

18-19 May 2024 Mid Poh Hut M Anne Lawrence 027 450 4212

Come along and have a look at the new improved Mid-Pohangina Hut. We'll go via Stanfield Hut and Cattle Creek Hut then sidle along the creek where you can expect to get wet feet. We finish with a bit of a climb before dropping down to the hut. With its new fireplace it should be a cosy place to spend the night. Back out the same way on Sunday. Leave Milverton Park 7.30 Saturday.

25-26 May 2024 Mitre Flats Hut E Ernie Cook 027 303 1363

An easy overnight trip from The Pines road end. Depart Milverton Park at 7:30 a.m. Please contact Ernie Cook 0273031363 no later than the Wednesday evening prior.

26 May 2024 Tunupo M/F Verity Elder 021 260 1885

Taking the track just before Alice Nash Memorial hut (Heritage Hut) we climb to Tunupō Peak on the Ngāmoko Range. Possible chance of some early snow. Return via the same track. Depart Milverton Park 7:30am. Please contact Verity no later than Friday 5pm.

1-3 June 2024 Kings Birthday Coastal Classic All Janet Wilson 06 329 4722

This year we are staying in cabins at Lake Ferry in the southern Wairarapa. Plenty to do including the Putangarua Pinnacles, Ngawi, Cape Palliser Lighthouse, seals, fishing etc. A relaxing social long weekend to round out the summer. Starting Friday night. Contact Janet early.

3 June 2024 Linton Walkway E Gina Fermor 06 359 0096

Enjoy a relaxing stroll along the popular walkway to Linton and back. It takes about 1½ hours to get to Linton and its delightful dairy. The walk back will conclude with a stop at the coffee cart. Attractions along the way include the Turitea eel sanctuary, Turitea Pa lookout, Kahuterawa Stream swing bridge, Linton Military Camp. Depart Milverton Park at 9.00am.

9 June 2024 Richard's Mullintogo M Richard Lockett 06 323 0948

Richard is still mulling over where to go – a favourite or something new - but he has fine weather booked so that's a good start. For more details give Richard a call.

8 June 2024 Outdoor First Aid Course

On Saturday 8 June 2024 there will be a one day course for 10 members, ideally trip leaders and Snowcraft Instructors. It will be held at Pohangina Hall and run by Peak Safety. Participants will receive a certificate but it is not a full NZQA course. The club has obtained funding from Eastern and Central Trust as well as a FMC Training Grant but participants will also need to pay a small fee (approx. \$30 each). If there is enough interest from members then we could consider holding another course next year.

Contact Robyn Wheeler 06 356-1998

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	Other Grades:
Medium (M):	5-6 hrs	Family (Fam)
Fit (F):	about 8 hrs	Technical skills (T)
Fitness Essential (FE):	over 8 hrs	Inst (Instruction)

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, over-trousers, 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 as there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone Martin Lawrence 357 1695 or Graeme Richards 021 149 8267.

Notices



AGM Report

New Executive & Committee members

At the AGM on Thursday 11 April 2024 we saw quite a change in the Executive, with President Janet Wilson and Treasurer Warren Wheeler both deciding to take a break and standing down. They were replaced by Anne Lawrence and Martin Lawrence respectively, who have both served in those positions previously.

Robyn Wheeler replaces Anne Lawrence as Secretary. Warren remains on the Committee,

along with Bruce van Brunt and Penny Abercrombie. New faces on the Committee are Verity Elder and Jo & Lawrence O'Halloran. .

Subs Increase

It was agreed that subs would increase by \$10. Subs were last increased by \$5 in 2018-19. This followed a \$5 increase the previous year (2017-18) when FMC increased their subs from \$8 to \$15. The latest increase will cover cost increases since then and last year's June increase in FMC subs from \$15 to \$18.

Subs 2024-25	
eSub Individual	\$45
eSub Family	\$50
Full Sub Individual	\$55
Full Sub Family	\$60

PNTMC President's Report 2023-24

It is with pleasure that I present this the 58th Presidents Annual Report.

I wish to start by thanking everyone who is a member of PNTMC for supporting and contributing to our club. I also wish to acknowledge the time contributed by members of the committee, trip leaders and instructors - it is because of you that we have a successful club , able to offer a varied programme of events to both members and non-members. These include mountaineering and tramping trips, mountain biking, training , talks, quiz nights, photo competitions and social gatherings.

Warren has provided the following statistics which give a good overview of this year's membership and trips.

- Membership has decreased slightly with the loss of 7 members being offset by the addition of 2 new individual members and 2 new family members.
- Total membership of 80 members includes 51 Individual Members, 26 Family Members and 3 Life Members.
- Of the 77 financial members, 62 paid eSubs and 15 received printed copies of the newsletter by paying Full subs.
- Of the 84 trips programmed, 51 (61%) were day trips and 33 (39%) were overnight trips.
- In the event, 29% of trips Did Not Go due to weather or other reasons.
- 74% (38) of day trips did go, as well as 67% (22) of overnight trips.
- Of the 60 trips that went, 35% (21) went to the Ruahines, 28% (17) to the Tararuas, 37% (22) went elsewhere.
- On average there were 5.7 people on day trips and 5.4 on overnight trips.
- Beginner Tramps were the most popular trips with 19 people coming along in April 2023.

The range of trips is, as always, impressive in variety offered. As I said last year it may be a reflection of the age of our membership, but we don't have as many fit and hard-core trips as were offered some years ago. Social trips and beginner trips have again proved the most popular. Highlights of these include the annual and well supported "Coastal Classic", which this year ventured offshore to Samoa, and the Matariki/Mid Winter trip .

Beginner Tramp Series

Introduced in late 2017, over the years the Beginner Tramp series have attracted good numbers and have led to new members joining the club. The number of new beginners participating was down a bit this year despite advertising as usual and offering suitable trips. The trips have however, proven popular with some of our members, including some of those who are not so active on regular club trips. Thanks in particular to Robyn Wheeler for taking over the role of organising these and to those who provide support by assisting on the trips.

Snowcraft

Two Snowcraft courses took place during winter with 9 students on SC1 and 10 on Snowcraft 2. Thanks to Grant Christian, Dieter Stalman , Chris Rayner and Malcolm Leary for planning and instructing this year and to Robyn for some of the administration.

Snowcraft made a net profit of \$482 this year thanks to lower than budgeted accommodation costs and some drivers declining reimbursement of transport costs. Thanks to Sue Pither for the use of her holiday home. Surplus funds from Snowcraft are invested back into the programme either for gear replacement or instructor training.

Scrabble Challenge

Inspired by an idea from club member Ernie Cook, this fun challenge started in December 2022. Prizegiving was at the end of year BBQ in December 2023. As with all our previous club challenges there was a small group who found it hugely motivating. Most of the more active club members took the time to record their scores with Ernie being the overall winner. Thanks to Martin Lawrence for creating the easy to use spreadsheet for recording your points.

Club Huts

Ngamoko - following on from Cyclone Gabrielle, an opportunity arose to fly one club member, along with a DOC team to Ngamoko Hut for one day. Chris Rayner took up the opportunity and did some well over due maintenance on a bunk rail, installed new corner boards previously prepared by Roy Rolston, installed an overflow for the tank to take water away from beside the hut and helped the DOC team. Just recently Michelle and Neil Benton tramped in in less than perfect conditions and completed some touch up painting work and cleaned the outside walls - thanks to all for your willing help. The Ngamoko Hut book continues to reflect the appreciation users have of this lovely hut.

Mid Pohangina

In my 2019 Chairs Report I reported that "I am currently investigating the possibility of replacing the open fire in Mid Pohangina with a small efficient wood fire with assistance from the Back Country Trust".

Well, good things take time and I am very pleased to report that this project was recently completed in early March. PNTMC joined forces with DOC and a new fire was installed, along with a new roof, water tank and paint. Many thanks to PNTMC members Chris Rayner (lead builder), Kirsten Olsen and Janet Wilson (painters) and the DOC team - project leaders, logistics, helicopter liaison and most of the funding. PNTMC have pledged \$5000.00 from our hut fund account to go towards this work. Many thanks also for Back Country Trust for arranging the Coloursteel roofing iron from Steel & Tube and to Dulux for supplying the paint via their sponsorship arrangement with DOC.

Working on huts is very rewarding - the team have great sense of achievement from helping with the hut renovation, which should see it last for many years yet. I would recommend members getting involved with hut renovations if you get the opportunity.

Spending those funds won't show up in our accounts until the 2024-25 financial year.



Communication - Newsletter, Website and Facebook

Thanks to Warren Wheeler for the commitment he shows in producing our newsletter. The newsletter is a good read every month and provides an excellent historical record of our club activities and other news. We still distribute a paper copy to those who pay the extra sub. I encourage everyone, not only the e-sub members to read the newsletter on line where you get the benefit of the photos in colour.

Martin Lawrence maintains our excellent updated web site with all upcoming trips and club nights advertised. The web site also holds a collection of historical newsletters which make great reading. I encourage you all to have a look - there is a lot of information to be found there.

The Facebook page has 765 followers and lists our club programme. Users need to contact the trip leaders directly to go on trips. There is also a good collection of photos on the page.

Club Nights and Social Activities

Club nights have been many and varied - thanks again to the hard-working Warren for organising such a great range of speakers, BYO slide nights etc. Thanks also to club members who have risen to the challenge

of giving their own talk about a special trip. Club members who took part in the Interclub Quiz night did well and we retained the Trevor Bissell Memorial Billy. Well done to the winning team members.

Conservation Volunteering (Applied Tramping)

While this is not officially part of our club's activities I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of Ruahine Whio, to thank those club members who help with the protection work that I lead in the Oroua and Pohangina valleys. There are many hours put in and club members make up a large proportion of the volunteers. Unfortunately the trip planned to the Te Potae trapping programme had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Is it time to add more of this type of trip to the club programme?

Back County Trust and the Ruahine User Group.

I would like to acknowledge the work put in over the last few years by the BCC. A lot of effort has gone in to upgrading and maintaining some of the Ruahine huts, most recently Awatere Hut. They are very proactive in the Ruahine Range and are currently working to relocate Leon Kinvig Hut.

Search and Rescue

While we are no longer formally involved with land SAR as a club, a number of members are local LandSAR and Cave SAR volunteers. Anne Lawrence is also the Wander Track facilitator for our area. Well done Anne for stepping up to that role, and helping to keep the aged and vulnerable people safe.

Grants and Funding/Club Fees

This past year we have received a grant of \$2200 from the Eastern and Central Community Trust. This is to be put towards gear replacement and a First Aid Course for members. It is currently unspent in our accounts. We have also received a \$500 training grant from FMC to help fund the First Aid Course. Thanks to Bruce van Brunt for completing the applications.

Club membership fees were last increased in \$5 to their current settings in 2018-19. Since then the cost of postage has increased significantly and FMC have increased their sub from \$15 to \$18.

Your committee have reluctantly come to the conclusion that we recommend subs be raised this year and our treasurer Warren will put this to the meeting tonight.

Constitution

This year the committee has continued with work to review the club's constitution to update it and to bring it in line with the new Incorporated Society's legislation. This is still a work in progress and should be completed later this year.

I am standing down as president. Before I go I will repeat my questions from last year's report. The idea of mid-week tramps has been raised in recent times. While traditionally a weekend tramping club - would we want to include scheduled weekday trips? Is this worthy of discussion as more of our membership reaches retirement. Secondly, in just over a year's time the club will be in its 60th year - how to commemorate this milestone?

We would not have a club without the efforts of those who volunteer as committee members, instructors and trip leaders. I would like to encourage anyone who feels they can find some time to help contribute to the running of the club to consider helping out in some way, be it as a trip leader or committee member. Some of our current committee members have done many years of service and may well feel it's time to take a break or step back to allow others to come forward into leadership roles.

To conclude, I wish to thank Don French for continuing to review our accounts and to Sue Pither for continuing to be an interested and supportive Patron.

Trip Reports

22-28 March 2024

Kahurangi Lighthouse Keeper's House

Report by Stephen Legg

Participants - Janet Wilson (Leader) Graham Peters (Driver), Yvette Cottam, Kirsten Olsen, Stephen Legg

If you would like: travelling on the Interislander ferry; driving via Takaka to Kahurangi National Park; being



befriended by a horse before breakfast at Alf's backpackers; a vehicular crossing of Turimawiwi River; beach tramping to Kahurangi Point lighthouse keepers house – a 'luxury' DOC 'hut'; wading across



Anaweka and Big Rivers, even in the dark; getting caught in the rain; exploring a fantastically scenic Kahurangi Point reef and cliffs; scaling giant sand dunes in a howling wind; collecting, cooking and eating local kai moana; relaxing in a hot bathtub heated from the hut wetback, and; predicting tide-safe river crossing times to return to civilisation, you would enjoy visiting the Kahurangi Lighthouse Keepers House.



Kahurangi Point Lighthouse

5-7 April 2024

Te Matawai 50th

Report by Blair Petersen

With 2024 being the 50th anniversary of the current Te Matawai Hut, I thought it was a good reason to go there, and also to Mangahao Flats Hut on the way out.

Ken Mercer, Jenny McCarthy, Neil Benton, Callum Taylor and myself set off in the van (thanks Mary for driving) for the Poads Road car park. From there it was via Gable End track to Te Matawai track. The DOC website has advice that the track is closed due to a slip, but in reality its now easily crossed - the vegetation is re-growing and there's a rope across the tricky parts. Caution is required of course, especially after heavy rain.



Gable Ridge track was as I remember - fairly steep and unrelenting, but with excellent views near the top. Of course, being the Tararuas, there's the usual mud along the top. After climbing approx 700m to Richards Knob, only to give 300m back going down Dora Ridge and having to regain 200m, I was pretty glad to see Te Matawai Hut. Thankfully that was most if the climbing done for the trip!



We shared the hut with three hunters who had flown in. They hadn't shot anything, but sometimes those trips are less about meat and more about time with mates. Judging by the meal they prepared, Jamie Oliver was one of their party.



Te Matawai Hut

The next day was a cruisy few hours to Mangahao Flats Hut. The track from the turn off down to Mangahao Flats has been cleared recently and made for easy travel.



By contrast, when we got to the Girdlestone Saddle, the track down to South Ohau Hut was very overgrown.

We passed Avalanche Flats where the Avalanche Flats Hut had been.

Mangahao Flats Hut was reached in time for lunch, with Howie Nicholson meeting us there, having driven in via the dams. The afternoon was

spent 'chillin out', as well as restocking the wood shed with dead wood left over from when the helicopter pad was cleared a few years ago.



Three different hunters at Mangahao Flats. No Jamie Oliver, but a back steak that they'd flown in with appeared and was seasoned and cooked. It's hard smelling all that after having had a freeze-dri meal

Sunday saw us walk out to the car park, following the river from the final swing bridge. On the way we found the clearing where Harris Creek Hut was.

It was great to see Te Matawai again, looking much better after a re-paint last year. My first time to Mangahao Flats, reputable the best maintained hut in the Tararuas - thanks and well done to the MTSC volunteers.

We were lucky with perfect weather, on a trip that included a good mix of open ridge tops, bush and river travel'.

14 April 2024

Mangaweka Rail Tunnels

Report by Nicola Wallace

Ten of us met at Milverton Park on a cloudy morning. I was pleased to see Anthony, from the USA there. I'd met him a few weeks back in Macpac (in the boot corner), told him about our club, and this was his first outing with us.

Our two-car convoy from PN became a four-car one when we met up with Malcolm and Richard in their respective vehicles just out of Mangaweka. A couple of left turns, across the railway line and we arrived at the roadend, with tight parking. This was a walk on private land that Malcolm had arranged permission for from the farmer, so this would be a very special trip.

Walking on the site of the former rail line, we soon arrived at our first tunnel, with a mob of sheep and a farm gate which we easily negotiated. The first tunnel was very short, so no need for a headlight but light was needed for the other 4, which were longer. These tunnels were built in the early 1900s as the North Island Main Trunk Railway Line opened in 1908. So they served for around 70 years, until the Mangaweka Deviation opened in 1981. The amount of effort to build them at that time, with very little mechanical help, in hill country, must have been staggering. It was so cool to look up to the tunnel roofs and see the brickwork.

The tunnels followed in quick succession, being less than 500m apart from each other. We ambled along, stopping frequently to look East, over the Rangitikei River to the current railway line which is built on the flat.



Along the way we encountered sheep bones, and unpleasantly, dead sheep which were partly decomposed and really stinky!

The weather was a little drizzly, just enough to keep the raincoat on.

The Northernmost tunnel was the longest, and as Malcolm had warned there was water at the top end as the farmer had made a dam. This tunnel had a short side shaft. Some of us walked through (you can stand upright) and stood on the edge of the bushy cliff.

We had morning tea in the drizzle out the Southern end of the tunnel. Sheep poo everywhere but a spectacular view straight down to the Rangitikei River.

We retraced our steps, and on the way back I found an old outhouse in a partial state of collapse.

The cloud was slowly lifting and the sun almost emerging, so we were optimistic about our afternoon walk to Egmont Peak from Manui Road.



Almost back at the start we walked through the most beautiful cutting which I hadn't noticed on the way in.



Back at the cars, Doug was unlucky and banged his head on the boot lid. A little way down the road, we stopped to enjoy a fantastic view of the South Rangitikei Viaduct. Very modern! For the best view some of us ducked under the live fence wire, and Doug was unlucky again and got zapped!

We drove down to the campground for lunch. By now it was drizzling in earnest, then just as we finished eating we discovered that two of our party were missing, though their packs sat with us under the pine trees. We'd wait for them.

Down at the river, the height of the papa cliffs was awesome indeed, what a view. The river was running the same grey colour as the cliffs.

I started heading over to the Awastone cafe to look for our absentees, but got distracted by the old bridge, and just had to have a quick walk on it. A toot summoned me to the cars, our missing had been found.

At Malcolm's suggestion, we were going for a little drive up the Kawhatau Valley to get a view in order to judge whether it was worth doing the afternoon walk. At the appointed viewing spot Malcolm decided "no", it wasn't worth it as there'd be no view.

But the new discoveries were far from over.



We stopped and looked at the remains (what remains of the remains) of the old power house. This supplied power to pump water uphill to Mangaweka, as well as power for town use.

Then we took the 5 minute walk to the dam on the Mangawharariki River, a spectacular sight with the water tumbling over.

A few brave people climbed up the steps to the top of the dam, but it looked pretty slippery to me.

We adjourned at the cafe before the drive home. We arrived back in PN just before 4pm.

We were a group of 16. Is this a record for a PNTMC trip?

Many thanks to Malcolm for arranging and leading this really interesting trip, and to the drivers. Anne & Martin, and Michelle & Neil drove all the way from PN.

We were: Martin & Anne, Sally, Roxanne, Michelle & Neil, Doug, Anthony, Chris, Heather & Graham (from Marton), Richard, with his friends Bill & Wendy, Nicola (scribe) and Malcolm Leary (leader).



PNTMC Newsletter May 2024

- Upcoming Trips and Club Nights
- Notices: AGM Report, Outdoor First Aid Course Coming
- Presidents Report 2023-24
- Trip Reports Kahurangi Lighthouse Keepers House, Te Matawai 50th, Mangaweka Tunnels Walk

Send articles to

the newsletter editor at pntmci@gmail.com



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