



---

# Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

PO Box 1217, Palmerston North

## Newsletter June 2024

---



*Beginners Trip to Wharite, southern Ruahine Ranges.*

*Pic by Warren Wheeler*

### 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.*

**13 June 2024**

**Out There with FMC**

**Emma Gregg**

Emma has now spent a year as our local member on the FMC Executive. Emma will tell us how her passion for the outdoors led to her being elected and give us an inside view highlighting some of the challenges facing FMC.

**27 June 2024**

***No Club Night - Happy Matariki***

## Upcoming Trips

**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.

**8 June 2024**                      **Outdoor First Aid Course**                      **Robyn Wheeler**                      **06 356 1998**

This is a one day course focused on first aid in the outdoors. We are keen for trip leaders in particular to come along but all club members are welcome. 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 (\$20 each). 8.00am-5.00pm. BYO lunch.

**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.

**15-16 June 2024**                      **Triangle Hut Social Trapping**                      **M**                      **Janet Wilson**                      **06 329 4722**

3-day Ruahine trip starting 14 June. This multi-faceted loop trip from the Rangī carpark goes past Rangī Hut, over the tops and down to Triangle Hut beside the Oroua River. If river conditions allow we will head downriver, then up to Mangahua high point before returning via Deadmans track or Rangī. The idea is to have a social time while working on the trap lines rather than just rushing to get the traps done. See Notices below for more details on this and other trapping trips. If interested, please get in touch with Janet early as plans can be very flexible.

**16 June 2024**                      **Pinnacle-Donnelly Flats**                      **E**                      **Verity Elder**                      **021 260 1885**

Pinnacle Ridge from Holdsworth car park to Donnelly Flat. Follow the true left track just before the footbridge over Atiwhakatu Stream, climbing up to the high point on Pinnacle ridge, moving through two minor saddles, and then dropping down a large spur to the left which takes us to Donnelly Flat before returning to the car via the main track. Potential for some wonderful bird life and beautiful goblin forest. Loop is dependent on the stream being crossable on the day (easy/medium). Depart Milverton Park 7:30am. Please contact Verity no later than Friday 5pm.

**18-20 June 2024**                      **Upper Makaroro Hut**                      **M**                      **Ernie Cook**                      **027 303 1363**

A mid-week 3 day trip to the northern Ruahines. Staying two nights at the hut with a day trip to Kylie Biv on the Wednesday. Please contact Ernie no later than Sunday 16 June.

**22 June 2024**                      **Mikimiki**                      **E**                      **Martin Lawrence**                      **06 357 1695**

A nice easy Tararua trip. From Kiriwhakapapa campsite, we'll follow the old tram track along the river then up and over to Mikimiki Stream. The track then follows this stream to Mikimiki Road where we'll turn around and retrace our route. A pleasant walk but expect some mud.

**23 June 2024                  Ross Peak                  E/M                  Warren Wheeler                  06 356 1998**

Reprogrammed from April. This local trig point up in the leatherwood of the Ruahine Ranges is the next named peak north of Wharite. Access is from the end of No.2 Line, off Pohangina East Road. It is an easy 3 hours up a well cleared track to the summit where we will enjoy grand views on a good day. Return the same way. Depart Milverton Park 8.00am.

**28-30 June 2024                  Matariki Taupo                  All                  Anne Lawrence                  06 357 1695**

This year our Matariki Celebration will be held at Kuratau at the south end of Lake Taupo. We'll be staying at Martin and Anne's bach. Plenty of good opportunities for walking and kayaking. Contact Anne early for more details.

**6-7 July 2024                  Cattle Creek Hut                  M                  Blair Petersen                  027 600 4263**

A nice easy trip in the eastern Ruahine, with little climbing involved. We go up the Tamaki River West Branch (or Holmes Ridge if the stream is too high) to Stanfield Hut and carry on upstream before a short climb up to ridgeline and along then down to the hut.

**6-7 July 2024                  Alpine Skills for Beginners                  FE/T                  Grant Christian                  021 117 6921**

This trip will be to Mt Ruapehu. Details will be decided closer to the weekend. We will probably meet on Friday night and if we can stay in a lodge at Whakapapa we would need to meet at the ski field by 5 p.m. Friday. If lodge accommodation doesn't work out we will probably stay in Ohakune. The lodge will cost around \$60 to \$80 per night. Some meals may be included. See details in Notices below. Please contact Grant as soon as possible, but no later than 22 June.

**11 July 2024                  Manawatu Gorge Walk                  E                  Robyn Wheeler                  0210 748 129**

A morning walk (0900 to 1300) to windmill lookout. Option of coffee at Ashhurst afterwards.

**14 July 2024                  Platinum Mines                  E                  Nicola Wallace                  021 209 0720**

A relaxed day walk to the historic Platinum Mines, via the Sledge Track and Hardings Park, up the Kahuterawa Valley just South of Palmerston North. Bring your headtorch, in case we venture into some of the mines

### **Trip Grading**

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

### **Applied Tramping aka Social Trapping**

Janet Wilson is planning to run club trips combined with checking predator traps for her Ruahine Whio Protection programme.

The idea is to have a social time while working on the trap lines rather than just rushing to get the traps done. Trips will be planned around what needs doing and the weather and river levels. The grade will vary depending on what and where needs doing.

See details in Upcoming Trips above and on our website.

### **15/16 June – Triangle Hut**

(3 day trip starting 14 June Grade M )

### **20/21 July – Iron Gate Hut .**

Trap line maintenance trip, many hands make light work. Grade E/M

### **17/18 August – TBA**

### **14/15 Sept – TBA**

If interested please get in touch with Janet early in the week as plans can be very flexible e.g. a weekend trip may become a day trip or vice versa. Look out for these worthwhile trips in the newsletter and on-line.

### **ALPINE SKILLS PROGRAMME 2024**

We have restructured (and renamed) the Snowcraft Course this year to simplify the organisation involved.

The course will be run as three trips to Mt Ruapehu as set out in the programme below. You will need to arrange transport to the mountain, co-ordinating with others as much as possible. Someone coming from Palmerston North will need to volunteer to collect hire gear for all attendees.

Those wanting to practice skills they have already learnt are welcome.

If conditions are not suitable the trips will be postponed to the following weekend.

See details in Upcoming Trips above and on our website.

Contact Grant Christian 021 117 6921 or email [gpc374@gmail.com](mailto:gpc374@gmail.com).

### **6-7 July Alpine Skills for Beginners 1**

We aim to teach participants how to travel safely in snow, with and without crampons, using an ice axe and self arresting. We will also talk about avalanche safety.

### **20-21 July Alpine Skills for Beginners 2**

This weekend we will aim to consolidate the skills learnt on the previous weekend and move on to using ropes, snow anchors, belaying and maybe some abseiling.

Please contact Grant as soon as possible but no later than 5 July.

### **3-4 August Alpine Skills for Beginners 3**

This trip will be a chance for people to practice their new skills or use their old skills for an exploration of Pinnacle Ridge next to Whakapapa ski field. We will explore the lower Pinnacles.. Ropes can be used by those wanting to test the steeper slopes.

Please contact Grant as soon as possible but no later than 19 July.

### **Upcoming Climbing Trips**

Once you have the necessary skills there are follow up trips planned by Grant.

17 or 18 August - Tahurangi or Girdlestone or Paretaitonga - Best weather day but preferably Saturday. FE & T

Other trips yet to be decided.

If people are interested Grant will keep them informed.

Look out for details of these and other alpine trips on our website and upcoming newsletters.



## Trip Reports

**7 April 2024**

**Beginners #3 Blue Range Hut**

**Report by Warren Wheeler**

A beautiful day, but with only five participants, including two beginners and three club members.

A good time was had by all, including cramming four of us into the hollow rimu.

We were Donna, Bronwyn, Ernie, Trish and Warren.



**28 April 2024**

**Roaring Stag Lodge**

**Report by Mark Mills**

Four members and two prospects ventured out on a glorious autumn Sunday to stretch our legs and breathe in nature's beauty tramping out to the hut, "Roaring Stag." Being an occasional hiker myself, I was quite surprised by the amount of cars at the car-park, obviously quite a few others were taking advantage of the good weather over ANZAC weekend.

We left said carpark approximately 9am. Walked up a hilly section, getting a sweat up, to the junction stopping for morning tea before sojourning onwards and downwards to the hut. The track itself is typical of what you find in the Tararua and elsewhere, well trodden by thousands of keen trampers over many years. A few boggy bits and tree roots make easy for stepping up.

Reaching the hut at 11.50am, we sat outside in the warmth of the sun eating our lunch by the river and topping up our water bottles. Woody and myself crossed the swing-bridge to check out the "quiet" overnight camping zone on the other side, observing the really good-looking swimming spots. Not today though sorry, still a bit cool and we wanted to keep moving.

Carrying on in reverse, the way we came in, this time up to the junction from the hut, stopping again to observe the tranquillity of nature. Ten points to Woody and Anne, who seemed to be able to find small pockets of flowering red rata from the immense green leaf in our surroundings.



Back, to the car-park by 4pm. We never saw a “Roaring Stag”, but I’m sure it’s named such for a reason. We all got back safely and happy after an enjoyable day out. Praise the Lord!

Thank-you, to Verity for organising.

Participants. Marty & Anne, Verity, Virginia, Woody, Mark.

## 5 May 2024      **Beginners #4 to Wharite Peak**

## **Report by Roxanne Brassington**

Blair drove Ylva and I to the cemetery where we picked up Sally and headed to Ashhurst. There we met Warren, our fearless leader of the fourth and final Beginners’ Tramp. It was a stunning day in PN, with a blanket of fog sneaking through the mouth of the gorge, so when we drove over the Saddle Road to meet Ernie in Woodville we ended up in thick fog. Thankfully when we got to the start of the track, we were higher than the fog.

The track started off well, along Coppermine Creek, through the lovely bush, including a small stand of nikau palms. We quickly came to the first slip which was too precarious to navigate so we backtracked and crossed the creek until we’d passed the slip before climbing back to reclaim the track. Slip number 2 came just before the signpost to Wharite Road. We managed to negotiate this one without going back to the river.



Then came the climb, up and up. The path was clearly marked for most of it, although through the ferns was overgrown and it was difficult to see where to place our feet. There was some mud, but as we hadn’t had a lot of rain recently, I’m told it was much better than expected.



Wharite’s tower looked tantalisingly close but it took us longer to reach than we hoped. Ernie decided to go off on a tangent towards Ross Peak so Warren had to track him down and bring him back. The track had been cleared from that point, making it easier to walk.

We continued on and finally made it to the summit for lunch. There was no wind, and it was a picture-perfect day with panoramic views in all directions. We saw Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe, Kapiti Island and the



array of wind farms, the river, Palmy, Ashhurst and Feilding. While there, several cars and a motorbike arrived at the summit. We felt very satisfied having done it by walking.



We were dreading the trip back down with the steepness and lack of foot visibility. Several of us came to grief. Ylva tripped and fell face first against a rock, bruising her thigh. After a pause to recover, we continued on. Sally slipped on her bum a few times and I slid down on my bum once too. I was very glad to have my climbing poles.

We were glad to get back down to the flat, but coming down seemed to go much quicker than expected. Walking back through the creek was a good way to wash our boots, as we did have to walk through a few mud wallows.

After changing our footwear, it was off to Woodville for an ice cream and a petrol reckoning, where we said goodbye to Ernie. The rest of us headed back over the Saddle Road and on to home. A great day's walk so close to home. Thanks to Warren for leading us, not astray.

Participants were Ylva, Roxanne, Sally, Ernie, Blair and Warren

**18-19 May 2024**

**Mid Pohangina Hut**

**Report by Anne Lawrence**

I was expecting a reasonable number for this trip - the weather forecast was pretty good, and I thought people would be keen to see our newly spruced up hut. However, Martin, me and Neil ended up being the only ones.

We left Palmy at 7.30am with the weather looking bright. But the further we drove, the thicker the cloud blanket on the Ruahines. Undeterred, we headed up the Holmes Ridge track only to face a breeze that steadily increased. By the time we stopped at Stanfield Hut for morning tea, the breeze was definitely a cold wind. We donned extra layers and headed up and along the ridge towards Cattle Creek Hut. Out in the open on the ridge just above Cattle Creek the wind was ferocious making it a battle to stay on your feet for the brief bit of exposed track. Once down at the hut, we donned even more clothing.

We were all pleased to have our extra layers on as we were battling the wind all the way down Cattle Creek. It was not easy going – the rocks in the river were really slippery (I think they probably always are) and with the wind whipping water up in our faces, it was hard to see where we were stepping.



*Pack off makes it easier to climb over the log. Pic by Neil*

Our biggest challenge was the log (it looks much less of an obstacle in the pic than in real life!). Having all climbed down over it, we were worried how we were going to get back up the next day.

The next major obstacle is helped by having a well-secured chain in place to help negotiate the exposed rock face. The chain itself isn't too difficult but caution is needed on the track leading up to it which is pretty sketchy with unstable footing.





*Negotiating the chain. Pic by Neil*

We were surprised to come across a DOC sign pointing to Mid-Pohangina Hut 15 minutes away. I don't recall seeing this before. It is not obvious where to go to up the slip face. The best way seemed to be to clamber around the flaxes. Care is needed as it is rather loose and rocks are easily dislodged – advisable to keep spaced out both on the way up and down.

Having heard what we assumed was a dog barking, we were expecting to find at least one hunter in residence at the hut and were pleased we had brought tents. But the hut was empty – and we decided the barking was from deer.

Certainly plenty of deer sign around and we heard more barking the next day.



*The newly painted hut. pic by Martin*

The hut looks great. Nice paint job on the outside, the fire works well and the whole hut felt more spacious. What a treat to have tank water – I know it isn't far to the river but it is nice to be able to just turn the tap! There was a good supply of dry wood and kindling.

Wood chopping, reading the hut book and a couple of quizzes (thanks to the FMC bulletins in the hut) entertained us until it was time for dinner, followed in due course by bed. The hut book shows how busy the place is in the roar – a page of entries in the last month, with most people staying 1 or 2 nights, and all commenting on how many deer they had or hadn't got.





*Warming our feet. Pic by Martin*

Sunday dawned bright and clear. No sign of wind at the hut, and almost none as we worked our way back up the creek. When we got to the tree, Neil and I managed to make it up and over (my thanks to Neil for a bit of help) but Martin avoided the whole thing by following a well-trodden route up and along the true left of the creek.

It was beautiful up on the ridge above Cattle Creek Hut – lovely to have views and be able to enjoy them without battling the wind. We had lunch at Stanfield and commented how we had seen no one else all weekend. But then we did bump into 3 young fellas when we were about half way along the Holmes Ridge track.

All in all, a great weekend. We found the DOC times (2 hours to Stanfield, 2 more to Cattle Creek Hut and 2 ½ to Mid-Poh Hut) pretty spot on although we were a bit quicker on the way home.

Participants were Neil Benton, Martin & Anne Lawrence.



## PNTMC Newsletter

### June 2024

- Upcoming Trips and Club Nights
- Notices: Social Trapping Trips, Alpine Skills Programme
- Trip Reports Beginners #3 Blue Range Hut, Beginners #4 Wharite Peak, Roaring Stag Hut, Mid-Poh Hut via Cattle Creek

Send articles to

the newsletter editor at [pntmci@gmail.com](mailto:pntmci@gmail.com)



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	Anne Lawrence	357-1695
Vice President	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761
Secretary	Robyn Wheeler	356-1998
Treasurer	Martin Lawrence	357-1695
Webmaster	Martin Lawrence	357-1695
Membership Enquiries	Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Gear Custodian	Anne/Martin Lawrence	357-1695
Newsletter Editor	Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Trip Coordinator	Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Beginner Tramps	Robyn Wheeler	356-1998
Snowcraft Coordinator	Dieter Stalman	027 450 9460