



Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club

www.pntmc.org.nz

PO Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter July 2024



Lunch break at Stonewall Creek, Cape Palliser - Kings Birthday Coastal Classic Trip

Pic: Janet Wilson

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.

11 July 2024

Historic Waiuta Hut Restoration

Monika Coles

Monika was part of a restoration project working on Jos Divis cottage in Waiuta on the West Coast. Jos Divis came to New Zealand from the Czech Republic in 1909 and settled in Waiuta. He is called the Forgotten Photographer who saved a town. Monika went back to the cottage for its official opening in March this year and was lucky enough to be an interpreter for the Divis family that came to learn about their uncle Jos and find out more about his life here.

25 July 2024

Chatham Islands

Chris Tuffley

This summer Chris went to Rēkohu Wharekauri Chatham Island for a week-long eight person pelagic birding trip with four days at sea, and then spent another week tootling around the island by himself. Come along and see pictures of our eastern isles and some of the mollymawks, albatrosses, petrels, storm petrels, prions and assorted other birds that call them home.

Upcoming Trips

6-7 July 2024 **Alpine Skills for Beginners #1** **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 Thursday morning walk (0900 to 1300) to windmill lookout. Option of coffee at Ashhurst afterwards.

13-14 July 2024 **Jumbo** **E/M** **Warren Wheeler** **06 356 1998**

An overnight Tararua trip along the easy Atiwhakatu Track, up to Jumbo Hut and the snowy tops to Jumbo Peak for the views. Ice axes recommended but likely not required.

13 July 2024 **Toe Toe Loop** **M** **David Soong** **021 722 358**

The regular Saturday Toe Toe Loop walk usually departs from the Summerhill New World car park at 8am. Please text David before Friday to check if the walk is on and for further details.

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.

20-21 July 2024 **Alpine Skills for Beginners #2** **T/FE** **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. 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. 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 I will postpone this trip to the following weekend. Please contact me as soon as possible but **no later than 5 July**. Contact Grant on 021 117 6921 or email gpc374@gmail.com

20-21 July 2024 **Iron Gates Applied Tramping** **E/M** **Janet Wilson** **027 341 8945**

Ruahine trap line maintenance trip, many hands make light work. Overnight at Iron Gates Hut beside the Oroua River. If interested, please get in touch with Janet early as plans can be very flexible.

27 July 2024 **Toe Toe loop** **M** **David Soong** **021 722 358**

This regular Saturday Toe Toe loop walk usually departs from the Summerhill New World car park at 8am. Please text David before Friday to check if the walk is on and for further details.

28 July 2024 Branch Road Walkway E Janet Wilson 027 341 8945

Keen to get out for an easy walk with great views across to the snowy Ruahine Range? Branch Road Walkway is an easy uphill walk along an old road at Pohangina. Depart Milverton Park 8.15am.

3-4 August 2024 Alpine Skills #3 - Pinnacle Ridge FE/T Grant Christian 021 117 6921

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. I am hoping we can stay in a lodge on the mountain. If conditions are not suitable I will postpone this trip to the following weekend. Please contact me as soon as possible but no later than 19 July. Contact Grant Christian 021 117 6921 or email gpc374@gmail.com.

3 August 2024 Moonlight Manawatu Gorge E Verity Elder 021 260 1885

Saturday Moonlight walk. Following the Gorge Walk Track from the Woodville end we make our way to Centennial Lookout in the last hour(s) of daylight. The aim of this trip is to gain some experience walking in moonlight and or with headlamps. We return via the Ballance Bridge road (a short section of the old gorge road). Bring supper instead of lunch and don't forget your headlamp. Depart from Milverton Park at 4pm. Contact Verity no later than Friday 5pm.

8 August 2024 Manawatu Gorge Walk E Robyn Wheeler 0210 748 129

A Thursday morning walk (0900 to 1300) on the Gorge track to Sentinel Lookout or as far as we like. Option of coffee at Ashhurst afterwards.

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 Trips

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.

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.

New Gear Purchases

Thanks to a \$3300 grant from The Sargood Bequest we have purchased 8 new Edelrid climbing helmets and 2 new avalanche transceivers. Anyone want an old helmet for a pot plant holder or whatever?

Remaining funds will be used to purchase additional climbing gear such as harnesses.

Thanks to Bruce van Brunt for applying for the funding and for organising the online purchases from FurtherFaster and Bivouac respectively.

This new gear will be available for hire along with our existing mountaineering gear. Contact our Gear Custodian Martin Lawrence 06 357 1695

Trip Reports

25-26 May 2024

Mitre Flats Hut

Report by Nicola Wallace

Jumbo Hut shone brightly, illuminated by the morning sun as we drove along Upper Plain Road, destination: The Pines. With only 2 cars parked there, a quiet hut was a possibility. We left the car at about 9.20am on a fine but cloudy morning. A relaxed walk up the farm track led us to a new plaque mounted on a rock, just where you go through the wooden gate.



It was about 2 years since I'd last visited Mitre Flats Hut, and there were a few minor changes in the walk this time. An early stream crossing had a rope, presumably to help the tricky rock descent into the stream, but the rope was something of a nuisance, didn't really help and got caught between my head and pack.

We enjoyed a reasonably relaxed pace, much to my liking as the track is rocky and rooty in many places, but enjoyable if you don't hurry. We came across only one other trumper on the way, a solo lady walking out. She told of two other trampers at the hut. The latter half of the track had quite a few windfalls. I enjoyed getting to the little "bridge" sign at the hilltop, the hut is close now, just the steep little descent to get there. We arrived at the hut at 1.10pm and met the two



trampers. Much to our surprise one was a PNTMC member: Chris Parker. Chris and his mate Mike were busy cutting wood for the fire. As soon as we'd arrived it had started to drizzle, and I ate lunch and fell asleep in my sleeping bag while Ernie and Warren went for a walk, found wood and spent ages sawing and chopping it up, especially Ernie who was very enthusiastic. Chris and Mike had been planning to go up to Mitre on Saturday afternoon, but the rain put paid to that.

Later I donned my raincoat and checked out the swingbridge over South Mitre Stream, reminisced at an old campsite and just generally looked around the area, one of the joys of arriving at a hut early. The drizzle continued all afternoon.

Chris got a fire going, and we spent the evening eating and chatting. Due to there being only 5 of us, and good company at that, and the drizzly weather, it was a no-brainer to sleep in the hut rather than camp. I went to bed at 8pm, the others a bit later and it was wonderful to have the whole top deck to myself. Later on I heard someone chainsawing downstairs. Actually, it might have been snoring.

I was first up the next morning, and headed outside at about 6.30am. I heard the *kek-kek-kek* of a Karearea (falcon), hunting under the light of the moon. Couldn't see the bird though. Some stars were out, the weather was looking much better today.

I left a bit before Ernie and Warren, thinking it would be good to give them a chance to stretch their legs a bit and not have to go at my (slower) speed. They would catch me up I reasoned. I made my way back steadily but unhurriedly and had a good look at everything. The tree roots seemed a little drier today, everything a little less slippery. At the stream crossing with the rope, I pretended the rope wasn't there. At one stage I looked over my right shoulder and had a great view of Peggy's Peak and Mitre. As it turned out Ernie and Warren trimmed windfall on the way back, and we met up back at the car park, where I had just had lunch in the sun and was talking to a very friendly horse. I had really enjoyed the walk out, and indeed the whole tramp.

We stopped off at Mt Bruce on the way back and had a look in the cafe, and then had a wonderful afternoon tea with Anne-Marie at Ernie's.

Many thanks to Ernie for leading this tramp, and for both Ernie and Warren for their good company. Chris and Mike were also good company.

We were Ernie (trip leader), Warren (driver), Nicola (scribe).

1-3 June 2024 Kings Birthday Weekend Coastal Classic 2024 Lake Onoke (Lake Ferry)
Report by Janet Wilson

Following on from last year's Samoa extravaganza, I was looking for an interesting, easy to organise and more local destination. After the usual extensive search through all the online booking options, Lake Ferry Holiday Park seemed to be fitting the brief - it promised rustic cabins and a location right by the water. It was also many years since I last visited the area and back then it was only to go to the pub. As it turned out it was much more interesting than I had imagined. Most of the group turned up at the camp on Friday



afternoon in time for a walk out past the lake to the sea. The lake was lapping at the shoreline and seemed very full - indeed, the outlet had been (until earlier that day) blocked, causing the inflow from the Ruamahunga River to raise the levels to very high. We walked past the big digger responsible for the new channel and remarked that that looked like a fun job if you liked doing that sort of thing. The day ended with alfresco pizzas, mocktails and a beautiful sunset. Robyn and Warren called in en route to their much more salubrious accommodation at the nearby hotel.



Next morning the wind began to blow. We looked out to sea and were surprised to see the channel had become so much wider - the tides and outflow eroding the banks. The fishing folk were busy early. We retreated from the coast and drove around to the Putangarua Pinnacles to check out the "Closed" track. There were a lot of people heading up the well worn trail so we went to have a look to assess the "danger" for ourselves. Apart from the obvious danger of rock fall, which has always been present in the area, there didn't seem to be anything else hazardous - the Pinnacles are as fascinating as they have ever been.

We had lunch up at the viewing platform before carrying on around the well marked track that circles through bush and farmland to the DOC houses from where it is a short walk down the road to the cars. It had turned out to be a good thing to do on a windy day. Yvonne and Sally (staying at a local motel) joined us and we ended the day with a nice dinner and drinks at the hotel.

Sunday dawned calm- and the lake level seemed remarkably low - we set Warren the task of calculating how much water had flowed out to sea but I don't recall we got a final answer on that one. QUITE A LOT!

It was a good day for a coastal walk so we did the tourist drive past the bulldozers at Ngawi to the Cape Palliser Lighthouse.



The steps provided a good warm up for the day - we then walked up the coast as far as Stonewall Stream where we settled in for lunch in the sun. The waterfall just up the stream is an interesting and tantalising place to visit - what lies beyond it in Stonewall Basin? Back at Ngawi we found some icecreams, then back to camp for most of us for a feast in the camp kitchen.

On the way home on Monday some of us took the longer scenic route via the Western Lake Road, over the flood gates and along the shore of Lake Wairarapa - an interesting drive. The western side of Lake Onoke remains, for me, a place of mystery for a visit another day.

Thanks to everyone for coming to the 23rd Coastal Classic. The short winter days are a bit limiting but it doesn't matter when the location and accommodation turn out to be quite a bit better than expected. Good company too!

We were Jo and Lawrence, Robyn and Warren, Trish, Michelle, Richard, Yvonne, Sally, Rachel, Graham, Bruce dog and Janet (leader and scribe.)



Bird spotting at Lake Onoke

Richard and Ylva picked me up at 8am and we travelled up Mangahao Road towards Tokomaru No 3 Reservoir behind Shannon.

There is a carpark at the Tokomaru Valley Road for Burttons Track, which is part of the Te Araroa Trail.

We arrived at Tokomaru Shelter (Ian and Frank's Hut) with a toilet block at 9am. Campers could get water from the nearby creek.



The track was easy to walk thanks to Te Araroa volunteers who maintained it in early 2024.



We crossed a few creeks without getting wet feet and sat by the river for lunch at midday.

We arrived back at the carpark shortly after 2pm and stopped in Shannon for coffee and ice cream.

Thanks to Richard for leading and driving. A great day trip with good company.

This was originally supposed to be a 3 day trip to Triangle Hut on the Oroua river, led by Janet, but due to a few changes (one of which was Covid), it evolved into a day trip to Tunupo.

Callum and myself left Palmerston North in the dark, arriving at Janet and Graham's shed at about 8am. After a briefing by Graham, we set off towards Tunupo with the intention of re-baiting the traps all the way to the top.

The first few traps on the Tunupo track had rats in them, then after lots of empty traps, we eventually had 3 stoats to add to the tally.

We didn't end up getting to the peak, as about 100m above the bushline the temperature dropped, aided by the cold wind and what looked like rain approaching from Mangahuaia. No fun in that weather, so we decided enough was enough.

This was the first time up that track for both of us, so on the way down we made the most of the awesome view by stopping in a sheltered place for lunch. Does anybody else know how, when you turn around due to bad weather, it seems to rapidly improve, leaving you to question your decision?

Back to the shed, a hot coffee was very welcome and then back home in the dark - such is winter tramping!





PNTMC Newsletter July 2024

- Upcoming Trips and Club Nights
- Notices: New Gear Purchases
- Trip Reports: Mitre Flats Hut, Kings Birthday Coastal Classic – Lake Ferry, Burttons Track south end, Tunupo Trapping

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