



**Palmerston North
Tramping and Mountaineering Club**

www.pntmc.org.nz

PO Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter October 2024



PNTMC Photo Competition 2024

Best in Show

Pioneer Hut – Malcolm Leary

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.

10 October 2024

FMC and Me

John Beech

How being on the executive has provided me with an insight into how our parks are managed, or not! And how effective is FMC in representing our views and recreational aspirations to the political masters of the time.

31 October 2024

Trekking Nepal Plus

Janet Wilson

There is more to Nepal than just trekking in the Himalayas. Come along and hear all about a trip Janet did with a group of friends earlier this year.

Upcoming Trips

5 October 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.

5-6 or 6 October 2024 Ngauruhoe M/T Warren Wheeler 06 356 1998

Our annual anniversary trip of the 1996 Grandstand View Ruapehu erupting, we will zig zag up the west face to the crater. Crampons and ice axe essential. Depart PN 6.00am Sunday or we could do this as an overnight trip with some additional exploring if there is sufficient interest.

12-13 October 2024 Cattle Creek M Blair Petersen 027 600 4263

Join me as I complete my quest to bag all of the livestock-related huts - that's Cow Creek, Cattle Creek, Cattle Ridge and Roaring Stag.

13 October 2024 No.1 Line Loop M Richard Lockett 06 323 0948

A bit of a local adventure in the Ruahines, up the No.1 Line (off Pohangina East Road) track to the lookout then off track down into the stream back to the roadend.

12-18 October 2024 Aotea/Great Barrier Island All Barry Scott 06 354 0510

THIS TRIP IS FULL but contact Barry to be Wait-listed in case anyone cancels. Base camp will be Barry and Christine's house at Awana Bay 15 min up the coast from Claris airport. There is a mix of walks you can do as well as general exploring of the island. A walk up and over Hirakimata, the highest point on the island and breeding ground for the black petrel/takoketai is a must do. As are visits to Windy Canyon, Kaitoke Hot Pools and Harataonga Beach. Part of the arrangement this year would be some volunteer conservation work on Motu Kaikoura at Port Fitzroy removing wilding pines. There is a communal lodge to use and associated cabins where we can stay at overnight to explore the island a bit as well as do some work.

19 October 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.

20 October 2024 Ross Peak E/M Warren Wheeler 06 356 1998

Reprogrammed from September due to COVID. 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

25-28 October 2024 Maungahuka Loop M Ernie Cook 027 303 1363

Long Labour Weekend trip from Friday October 25th to Monday October 28th. From Holdsworth car park we will aim to visit Totara Flats Hut, Neill Forks Hut, Maungahuka Hut, Aokaparangi Hut, Mid Waiohine Hut and Powell Hut. I envisage three fullish days and one shorter day. Possible option to visit the steel ladder if desired. Please contact Ernie Cook no later than the Sunday prior. May need to carry a tent if numbers dictate. Will be leaving early and walking slow.

27 October 2024 Field Hut Centennial M Blair Petersen 027 600 4263

Opened on 27th October 1924, Field Hut was one of the first purpose built tramping huts in the country, and is the oldest surviving recreational hut in the Tararua Ranges. You may have been there before, but not on such an occasion. If you haven't been there before, what better day to

make your first visit than on the 100th anniversary of the day it opened. Join me for this once in a lifetime opportunity!

2-3 November 2024 Potluck at Syme Hut M Harley Betts 06 825 6250

Depart Palmy at 6.30 am Saturday for Dawson Falls carpark, about 40 mins past Hawera. The track to Syme Hut starts off in beautiful mossy forest at about 900 m and steadily climbs through a range of vegetation zones through to tussock and then open scoria slopes at about 1400 m. From the start of the scoria it is about another 600 m climb to Syme Hut which is perched on the summit of Fantham's Peak at just under 2000 m. Syme Hut has probably the best views of any hut in the North Island which means it is perfect as a potluck dinner venue. So bring your favourite dinner dish along with whatever you need to prepare it with and enjoy (hopefully) a stunning sunset view while you wine and dine the evening away. Next day, take in (again, hopefully) a glorious sunrise over the central volcanoes over breakfast before heading back down the same way. As part of FMC's "Love our huts" campaign, I've also nominated this trip's participants (thanks to you all in advance!) for giving Syme Hut a good spring clean before we leave, so we'll bring along a few cleaning rags, brushes, sugar soap, window cleaner, etc and a bit of elbow grease.

2 November 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.

9-10 November 2024 McKinnon-Crow Huts M/F Chris Tuffley 06 359 2530

A trip to Crow and McKinnon in the northwestern Ruahine, to show them some love for the FMC Love our Huts campaign. We'll go in via the Kawhatau River from Rangitane Reserve, spend the night at one of Crow and McKinnon, and swing by the other. If there's sufficient interest we could go in Friday afternoon and spend the night at Kawhatau Base before climbing the hill on Saturday.

Look out for updates of more Love Our Huts November trips on our website.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trampers 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, preferably 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 027 446 6287 or Bruce van Brunt 06 328 4761.

Notices

Interclub Quiz 3 September 2024 - Results

MTSC were the hosts this year and it was a close run thing, but we had to hand the Trevor Bissell Memorial Trophy billy back to MTSC – we have held it since 2017.

Club	Team	Points
MTSC	Chipper	131
PNTMC	Whistle	128.5
Mixed	May Contain Nuts	124
MTSC	Weka	108.5
MUAC	Sweaty Yetis	107
MUAC	Schist Stirrers	96.5

Good effort from the team – with very good knowledge of locations (Monika in particular), huts (the team), fauna and flora (well done Callum). The photos of mystery objects could have gone better (round 6). If only we had saved the joker (double points) for the NZ Fauna round (2).

Thanks everyone for turning up on the night – the team was Monika Coles, Callum Taylor, Ernie Cook, Graham Peters and Janet Wilson.

Avalanche Safety Awareness

Mountain Safety Council have reminded us that Spring time can raise avalanche risk in the mountains, not only above the bushline but in run out zones down gullies and valley floors.

Their website offers a few tips for the unwary. You can also Google “free online avalanche safety course” for an introduction to the risks and hazard assessment involved.

Ideal for a refresher or for those keen to learn more before going on an actual course.

Be aware - Keep safe out there.

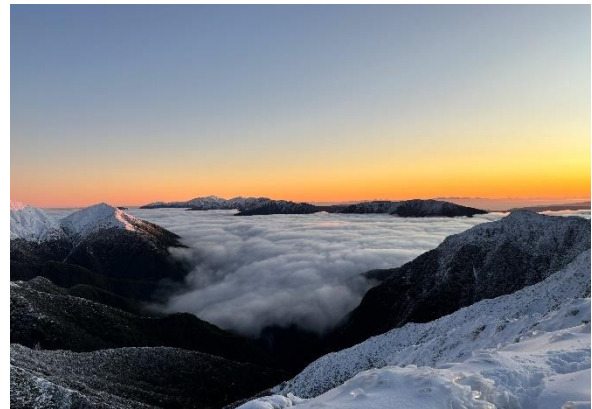
PNTMC Photo Competition 2024 - Results

See the Photo Gallery on our web page for more winners pics.

Held at the clubrooms on 29th August 2024.

Thanks to our judge Chris Tuffley and Martin Lawrence for organising.

The top 3 entries in each category were entered in the Interclub Photo Comp on 26 September with some interesting variation in placegetters reflecting the high standard of entries and audience votes on the night (results below).



Above bush no human

1. Emma Gregg: Islands in the blanket of clouds
2. Kathryn Knightbridge: Rock tops
3. Lynette Price: Mount Gifford from the Routeburn Track



Above bush with human

1. Malcolm Leary: Pioneer Hut
2. Emma Gregg: Place of warmth in the cold
3. David Soong: Ruapehu Climbing



Below bush no human

1. Harley Betts: Taranaki sunset
2. Emma Gregg: Shades of grey in morning mist
3. Harley Betts: Tongaporutu sunset



Below bush with human

1. Harley Betts: Tongaporutu Cave
2. Elly Arnst: Down on Dianes
3. Kathryn Knightbridge: Looking through the window



Long exposure

1. Emma Gregg: Aoraki starlight
2. Harley Betts: Aurora Ashhurst May 2024
3. Emma Gregg: Shades of violet Aurora



Native flora and fauna

1. Harley Betts: Kea cascade Saddle
2. Elly Arnst: Lichen
3. Emma Gregg: Legs out on the lines



Overseas

1. Woody Lee: Dolomites to Giussani Rifugio
2. Martin Lawrence: Australian Kauri
3. Bruce van Brunt: Amber Palace Jaipur



Topical

1. Elly Arnst: Tin Cup
2. Elly Arnst: Salute to the Sun
3. Monika Coles: Leave the hut clean

Best of the Show

1. Malcolm Leary: Pioneer Hut

Interclub Photo Competition - Results

Held at the club rooms on 26 September.
Thanks again to judge Chris Tuffley and
organiser Martin Lawrence.



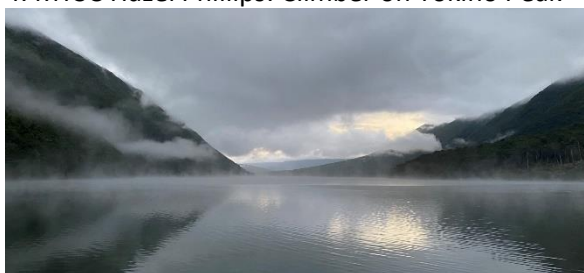
Above Bush no Human

1. MTSC Howard Nicholson: Gertrude Saddle
2. PNTMC Emma Gregg: Islands in the blank of clouds
3. PNTMC Lynnette Price: Mount Gifford from the Routeburn Track
4. MTSC Hazel Phillips: Sunset to Taranaki and Hauhungatahi



Above Bush with Human

1. PNTMC Malcolm Leary: Pioneer Hut
2. PNTMC David Soong: Ruapehu Climbing
3. PNTMC Emma Gregg: Place of warmth in the cold
4. MTSC Hazel Phillips: Climber on Tokino Peak



Below Bush no Human

1. MTSC Richard Lander: Morning at Owhiro Bay
2. PNTMC Harley Betts: Taranaki Sunset
3. PNTMC Harley Betts: Tongaporutu sunset
4. MUAC Dan Sturgess: Mount Taranaki reflected in Lake Mangamahoe just after sunrise



Below Bush with Human

1. PNTMC Elly Arnst: Down on Dianes
2. PNTMC Harley Betts: Tongaporutu Cave
3. MTSC Howard Nicholson: Clinton
4. PNTMC: Kathryn Knightbridge: Looking through the window



Long Exposure

1. MTSC Davide Conti: The House on the Hill - Poukawa
2. MTSC Davide Conti: Pekapeka Wetlands
3. MUAC Rosie Gudopp: Having some fun with a torch on a trip around Mt Taranaki



Native Flora, Fauna and Fungi

1. PNTMC Elly Arnst: Lichen
2. MTSC Davide Conti: Tunnel Web Spider
3. MTSC Richard Lander: Royal Spoonbills and Oystercatchers on the march
4. PNTMC Emma Gregg: Legs on the lines

Trip Reports

3-4 August 2024

The Pinnacles

Report: Grant Christian and David Soong

Most of us stayed at the Waikato Ski Lodge for my trip to the Pinnacles at Whakapapa. There were seven of us staying Friday night and David joined us on Saturday morning. Malcolm and Chris joined as at the lodge on Saturday night and came out for the day on Sunday.

David has done a great job of describing the first day's activities:

My wife and I drove up to the Tongariro National Park Village on Friday evening, and since she "does not do huts," we stayed in relative luxury for two nights. The next morning, I took a short drive up to the Whakapapa ski fields, where Grant was waiting with Lennart and Iris, who were there to help carry the club gear I brought to the lodge before setting off with the others.

I had completed a snow course two years ago but hadn't done much since, aside from collecting gear in hopes of reliving the fun I had during my first experience. I had also been hiking every weekend to stay in shape for some alpine trips.

As we stepped out of the lodge into what promised to be a very sunny day, my sunglasses broke as I was putting them on. Fortunately, I had my ski goggles with me, so all was not lost. With ice axe in hand, Grant led the way, followed by Lennart, Iris, Alyesha, Jacqui, Cheryl, Cam, and me. We climbed up the rocky ridge above the lodges to the snow, stopping briefly to put on our crampons before crossing the ski field.

I've skied at Whakapapa many times, but this was the first time the Pinnacles really caught my attention. They looked both amazing and intimidating. Grant set a slower pace for us, which was appreciated as the



steady climb to the base of the Pinnacles was strenuous on the calves and ankles. It was unlike hiking through the bush. The terrain became increasingly steep until we stopped in an area where we could see above us a saddle between two higher peaks. Grant and Cam conducted a snowpack study to determine the safety of the conditions, then decided it was safe to practice belaying each other and we proceeded to climb to the saddle.

I was paired with Alyesha, and we each grabbed an end of the rope to tie in. I measured out a length of rope with my arm, formed the loops, and then completely forgot what to do next. Fortunately, Cam was there to refresh my memory, and with his help, we made an anchor. My ski goggles were also of no help as they were made for looking ahead rather than down at my harness so I was continuously taking them off and on again throughout the day.

Due to lack of practise, my belaying felt clumsy and slow, but Alyesha was very patient as she was able to climb faster than I could feed the rope through the ATC. After a few pitches, we reached the start of the saddle where we found the others, who had reached the spot before us. The views from here were

amazing. Lennart and Iris had used a conveniently formed rock to abseil into the other side of the valley that we had climbed up from. We followed suit and abseiled down, which was much more fun and less effort with gravity finally on our side. After Cam climbed back up to retrieve the rope and sling, we followed him along a ridge, taking some cool Instagram-worthy photos before descending back towards the ski fields and the lodge.

The following day, we repeated the slow climb but took a different route to the place where we had finished the previous day. After the previous day's exertion, my energy level was very low, but I continued the climb to the point where we needed ropes. At this point, my desire for a good coffee outweighed my desire to continue for the day, so I decided to return down the mountain via the cafe. Over coffee, I had time to reflect on my stiff calves and realised that walking up alpine mountain slopes uses some extra muscles than are required for bush hiking. I also should have refreshed my knowledge of knots and practised using my new ATC before the trip, and perhaps I shouldn't have bought cheap sunnies from Ali Express. Despite these lessons learned, I thoroughly enjoyed the day and a half spent on the mountain. Thank you, Grant, for organising such an enjoyable and memorable trip.

Back to Grant:

On the Sunday, as David pointed out, we headed back to the same area. This is a great spot for practising belaying with many routes of varying steepness. Alyesha woke up not feeling the best so had stayed in the lodge. Upon arriving at the base of the Pinnacles Lennart found he had bad blisters so he and Iris decided to head back down. This left Chris and Malcolm and Cam and Jacqui to pair up for some pitched climbing.

After some good pitches we all came out on the ridge and admired the views while having lunch. Jacqui headed back down an easier route while the rest of us tried some abseiling down a steeper section. We then played around climbing some steep icy sections without ropes for a while.



All good fun and practice. We headed back to the lodge mid-afternoon and after a cup of tea and cleaning up we returned to the car park.

We were Grant Christian, Cameron Raupi, Lennart Junge, Iris Seegelken, Cheryl Hindle, Jacqui Bond, David Soong, Alyesha Candy, Chris Rayner & Malcolm Leary.



Spot me on top of the Pinnacles

8 September 2024

Billy Goat Creek

Report by Vaughan Roberston



My first outing with the club was the Billy Goat Track with Verity and Ernie for company.

It began with my boots getting wet within minutes as we crossed the stream (Coppermine Creek – Ed.) on a bright sunny day.

The climb up was gradual through the farm lands with bush at the top, but because of the wet ground we slid on the leaves going down the other side.

The turn around at the bottom with a beautiful stream and a small break was then interrupted as we began the steepish climb back to the top stopping for lunch along the way.

The weather changed to extremely windy with a light shower for the homeward stretch.

Altogether I enjoyed my morning and conversations and am looking forward to more excursions with the club.

We were Ernie, Vaughan and Verity.

On Saturday the 21st Janet, Anne, Martin, Blair, Verity, and Callum planned to go to Howletts Hut. Once we had arrived at the Longview car park we had spoken to a couple who also planned to go there and they had mentioned they had spoken to 7 others who also had the same plan.

After some discussion we decided to stay the night at Longview Hut and do a day trip to Top Gorge Hut. Once arriving at Longview we had lunch and spoke to two other people and by that time we'd counted 17 people who had planned to stay at Howletts.

After a windy night we left Longview at 7.00am to head down to the car park and stopped by a cafe in Norsewood on the way back to Palmy.



Dropping down to the Pohangina River to visit Top Gorge Hut.





Longview Hut sheltering from the wind



Heading back down from Longview.



PNTMC Newsletter October 2024

- Upcoming Trips and Club Nights
- Notices: Avalanche Safety in Spring, Interclub Quiz Results, Results of Club & Interclub Photo Competitions
- Trip Reports: Pinnacles Climbing Ruapehu, Billy Goat Creek, Howletts Plan B – Longgview & Top Gorge Hut

Send articles to

the newsletter editor at pntmci@gmail.com



Find us on facebook

<https://tinyurl.com/pntmcfacbook>

Get out and about with us!

Senden 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