



Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club

www.pntmc.org.nz

c/- Society of Friends, 227 College St, PN

Newsletter August 2025



Popping our heads out above the leatherwood at Ross Peak.

Photo by Warren Wheeler

Club Nights

Club nights are 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.

Thu 31st July 2025

Exploring Southern Fiordland

Kerry Griffiths

This is about Kerry's 2nd trip to the very bottom of Southern Fiordland. We will hear what he saw, and what he heard, in the thick bush – sadly no moose! On his month-long trip, he walked east from the helicopter drop off point at Kiwi Burn to Port Craig.

Thu 14th August 2025

Climbing Highlights

Malcolm Leary

I joined PNTMC in 2001 to get the skills to climb Mt. Cook. After doing Snowcraft I was able to try Cook but it had other ideas. Bruce van Brunt took me to other mountains which we sometimes succeeded on, so during my time attempting Mt Cook I did quite a few other mountains mostly with Bruce. At this stage I have been on seven of our twenty-four 3000 metre peaks with hopefully more to come. Anyway, here is a spread of my mountain trips.

Thu 28th August 2025

PNTMC Photo Competition

Chris Tuffley

Our Annual Club Photo Competition. Place getters in each category will be entered in the Interclub Photo Competition and the FMC Photo Competition. – SEE NOTICES FOR MORE DETAILS

Tues 7th October 2025

Interclub Photo Competition

Tuesday night 7.30pm at the MTSC club-night venue Aquatic Club Rooms, Lido Complex, Park Road, PN.



Drawing by Stephen Legg – English Camping Humour

Upcoming Trips

Fri 1st – Sun 3rd August Snow skills 2 - Ropes & Anchors **Grant Christian 021 117 6921**

An introduction to the skills for climbing on steeper slopes with ropes. Includes belaying, snow anchors, abseiling and roping up for glaciers. This trip to Ruapehu will only proceed if snow, avalanche and weather conditions are suitable; there is a reasonable chance of postponement to a later weekend. This trip is only open to members of PNTMC but you can join the club if you wish. Numbers are limited. The only costs are transport, accommodation and gear hire. Contact Grant by 14 July. Ph Grant on 021 117 6921 or email gpc374@gmail.com for further information.

Sat 2nd August Atiwhakatu Hut

Woody Lee: 0210 444 552

Saturday trip. A nice and easy walk along Atiwhakatu Stream. This track is the most popular area of the Tararua near Masterton. Depart 7.30am.

Sat 9th – Sun 10th August Social Trappers Triangle Hut

Janet Wilson 027 341 8945

The idea is to have a social time while working on the trap lines rather than just rushing to get the traps done. Trip will be planned around what needs doing and the weather and river levels. The grade will vary depending on what and where needs doing. If interested, please get in touch with Janet early as plans can be very flexible.

Sun 10th August Platinum Mines

Nicola Wallace 021 209 0720

Beyond the Sledge Track at the end of Kahuterawa Road we will continue up to the old mine shafts for lunch at rocky point lookout and back via Toi Toi Loop track. Depart Milverton Park at 8.00am.

Sat 16th – Sun 17th August Turoa Explorer

Grant Christian 021 117 6921

Best Weather Day. A chance to practice those crampon skills and have a wander around some of the valleys west of the Turoa ski field. Contact Grant at least a week before if you're interested.

Sat 23rd – Sun 24th August Waterfall Hut

Chris Parker 027 341 0091

About as far as you can get from a road end in the Ruahine Ranges. Well worth a visit.

Sun 24th August Rangi Snowballs

Doug Strachan 06 353 6526

Join us for an exciting trip up to the snow at Rangiwahia Hut. Will there be snow in the trees? Will the

waterfall be frozen? Will it be clear of totally clagged in? Suitable for the whole family, no ice axes required. Depart PN 8.00am.

Sat 20th - Sun 31st August Ruapehu Plateau from Whakapapa Grant Christian 021 117 6921
Best Weather Day. A walk up to the plateau from the Whakapapa side. Contact Grant at least a week before if you're interested.

Sun 31st August Waitarere Beach Walk **Janet Wilson 027 341 8945**
Celebrate the last day of winter with a walk along the beach to the Manawatu Estuary.

Trips beyond August can be viewed on the club website [‘trip card.’](#)

Trip Grading - Trip grades depend on many factors, including 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		

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, there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone Bruce van Brunt 06 328 4761 or Verity Elder 0212601885

Notices

Welcome to our new members:

Kate Martin, Merle Taendler, and Laura Rutte.

PNTMC Photo Competition 28 August 2025

Taken any good photos lately? Enter them in our annual photo competition and let our expert judge decide the best three images in each category - an audience vote (show of hands) will then determine first, second and third places. Placegetters in each category will be entered in the Interclub Photo Competition (hosted by MUAC on 7 October 2025); and the first and second place images in the FMC categories (everything apart from Overseas and Topical) will be entered in the FMC Photo Competition.

Categories are:

- ABOVE BUSHLINE (With no Human Element) - ABN
- ABOVE BUSHLINE (With a Human Element) - ABW
- BELOW BUSHLINE (With no Human Element) - BBN
- BELOW BUSHLINE (With a Human Element) - BBW
- NATIVE FLORA, FAUNA AND FUNGI - NFF
- LONG EXPOSURE - LE
- OVERSEAS - OS
- TOPICAL - TOP

Photo competition rules are consistent with those of FMC – winners of our competition are automatically entered into the FMC competition. Entries for all categories must be taken on or after 1 September 2023; photos cannot have been entered before; and apart from photos entered in the Overseas category, all images must be taken in New Zealand, which is defined as within our Exclusive Economic Zone. Removal or insertion of features not in the original image during postprocessing is **not** allowed.

PNTMC Newsletter August 2025

The definition of a “human element” is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains as anything other than as a very minor feature: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe and anything else that has been introduced by humans into the environment, then we would define that as having “a Human Element”. But if a photo has what could be called a Human Element but that element is very small, inconsequential, and not a feature in the photo then you could count it as “No Human Element”.

Definition of “Long Exposure”: The intention of the long exposure category is for photography of scenes that the naked eye cannot normally comprehend. These shots would require a very long exposure and the use of a tripod. The category is intended for highly technical images of shots taken at night, (including star trails), or in extremely low light situations such as caves or canyons. The category is not intended for normal dusk/dawn photography, or images where a long exposure is used to ‘blur’ the image (such as flowing water, or movement of the subject). This category is intended to encourage more entries, by separating such highly technical photos into their own category. We hope to get more participation from entrants who are not put off by the thought of having to compete with such highly technical photos.

Definition of “Topical”: People in tramping related activities.

Name your entries with the 2/3 letter code for the category followed by the image title: for example 'ABN Ruapehu Sunset.jpg' for an image titled "Ruapehu Sunset" entered in the Above Bushline with no human element category.

Submit your entries by emailing them to pntmcphotocomp@gmail.com (a cloud storage link such as Dropbox/Google Drive/etc is preferred), or by giving them to Chris Tuffley (021 167 6423) on a USB stick.

Deadline: Thursday 14 August 2025

Trip Reports

Blue Range Hut – (6th July).

Report by Doug Strachan

No takers, so just my daughter Minami and I, plus our dog Skye, set off for the blue hut. It was a good opportunity for Minami to get in some driving practice, and she was more comfortable once the cop car stopped trailing us and turned off. One of us had her head out the window the whole time and wasn't wearing a seat belt, but we didn't get pulled over. The driver and I were also distracted by The Beach Boys belting out on the car stereo in honour of the late Brian Wilson.

I wish they all could be Californian girls, but they're not, and the next best thing is the grove of Californian redwoods along the first part of the track. These babies really are babies because the species can reach 8 m plus in diameter. Not in our lifetimes, barring some medical breakthrough. Fingers crossed.

It was slightly under 2 hours to the hut and we were fortunate there was no rain and no wind at all, so we sat at the outside picnic table and chatted with a couple already there, while their dog and our dog played zoomies around the hut and picnic table. The 2 hour climb was a mere warmup for the dogs.



Coming down was easier than we expected as the roots formed natural steps. We caught up with the couple we met at the hut and told them about the hollow rimu tree. It's an impressive specimen that makes even those huge redwoods look skinny. The man was quite keen to go inside the tree after clearing away the cobwebs from the entrance. When he exited, Minami, Skye and I went in. All humans opted to go in feet first, the dogs head first. There's a whole ecosystem in there, with flying arthropods, and I bet some marsupials to boot. I formed a theory that the entire universe is inside an even bigger hollow tree in a forest, and that forest is part another universe in an even bigger tree, and so on ad infinitum.

We were: Minami, Doug and Skye Strachan



A perfect winter's day trip to Ross Peak – (20th July).

Report by Adam Matich; Photos by Warren Wheeler.

Six of us went up to Ross Peak on what was an almost ideal winter's day, viz. no rain, almost no wind, and even some sun. The last 500 metres up to the DoC car park at the end of No. 2 line was rather greasy and so Warren didn't even attempt it in his 2WD car. Jeff, however, decided to give it a go. It was a bit touch-and-go as a 4WD vehicle with road tyres is barely a 4WD vehicle. But it saved some of us an unnecessary 500 m of walking.

We more-or-less followed the white painted poles down into the creek, crossed NE over it and NE over the next creek to pick up the No. 2 line track, which is not quite where it is shown on the map. The track shown on the map is parallel to and a bit NW of the track on the ground. Once we climbed onto the spine of the spur we headed SE up-hill in a section of nice open forest with some tall trees.

At higher altitude the forest became stunted and was not so visually arresting. However, in places we were kept amused by the occasional patches of mud, especially up on the main ridge. It was quite slippery in places and there was the occasional embarrassment. More amusement! Some kind souls (Chris Teo-Sherrell and Kyle) have been through recently and pulled up the scrappy vegetation growing on the track and so we were, for the most part, able to see where we were putting our feet.

A leisurely 3 1/4 hours saw us at the trig and unexpectedly, that was where the wind almost wasn't. So, we had a nice lunch up there in the sun with some pretty good views (snow on the northern Ruahine) to aid digestion. For fear of sun-burn we decided against a prolonged lunch, and soon rambled back down to afternoon tea on the verandah at Warren's place, after a six-hour day. It was a bit sunny there too!

We were Warren Wheeler, Jono Remnant, Blair Petersen, Adam Matich, Jeff Mckay and Verity Elder



What's in my pack?

PNTMC 2025

Whether it is for comfort, safety or function, we all have it; gear we swear by and can't live without when out in the backcountry. 'What's in my pack' is an opportunity for us to share our stories, tips and advice on the gear we carry in our packs when tramping

Choose from the 5 categories below and write a short story or explanation about the item or gear. Include a bit of history or an example of it in use, and a photo (in action is best) if available.



Categories:

Two for one – Every milligram on our back counts, which is why some gear earns its place for its dual, or even multipurpose function.

Second-hand – From merino gems, to vintage Swandri and spare tent pegs, you never know what might be found in a second-hand store.

Repair job – in a 'throw away' society, taking a moment to repair your favourite gear can help save the planet and your wallet.

DIY – whether it is hand-made, self-made, custom-made or kit-set, gear that we make ourselves can have added value and satisfaction.

Can't live without – that one item you always pack.

For every entry, go into the draw to win a \$50 voucher from a local outdoor store of your choosing. Enter all 5 categories and go into the draw an extra 5 times. Draw made at the end of the year club BBQ.

email entries to: elderverity@gmail.com



PNTMC Newsletter

July 2025

- Upcoming Trips and Club Nights
- Notices: New Members, Photo competition
- Trip Reports: Blue Range Hut, Ross Peak.

Send articles to

the newsletter editor at elderverity@gmail.com

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<https://tinyurl.com/pntmcfacbook>

Get out and about with us!

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