



Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club

Newsletter June 2026

www.pntmc.org.nz

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



Photo by friendly trumper (stranger): River Ridge.

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 11th June

Birding on the Sunshine Coast

Chris Tuffley

In July last year Chris spent three weeks on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia, while attending the 2025 International Mathematical Olympiad as a member of the Problem Selection Committee. The mathematics kept him pretty busy...but he took every opportunity to get out and bird and explore, managing visits to the Glass House Mountains and Noosa National Park. He observed over 80 species - 63 of them lifers - and got photos of over 60, as well as some field recordings too. Come along and see and hear all about it.

Thu 25th June

BYO Pics

Warren Wheeler

Where have been over the last six months or so? Bring along your best pics on a memory stick and give us a Show and Tell of the highlights.

Upcoming Trips

Sun 14th June Hemi Matenga Kohekohe Walk *Easy-Medium*

Nicola Wallace
021 209 0720

Up behind Waikanae, this coastal forest walk starts off steep, but on reaching the ridge it is easy going to a lookout, then nicely zig zagged down to the Kohekohe Loop where we can expect to see lots of tuis in the flowering kohekohe trees. We walk back along the streets to where we left the cars. Depart 8.00am from Milverton Park.

Sun 21st June Pukerua Bay to Plimmerton *Easy-Medium*

Anne Lawrence
027 450 4212

The first part of this is a lovely coastal walk - it's quite wild and untouched, a place few people go. We start at the Pukerua Bay Beach Road and head round the Wairaka Headland to Plimmerton. Our return route takes us into the Karehana Bay Scenic Reserve and up a long flight of steps to the Taua Tapu Track. This reaches a trig at 114 metres and then descends to Airlie Road which we'll follow past the Whenua Tapu Crematorium until we reach the Ara Harakeke walkway. This walkway runs parallel to SH1. We follow it to the Pukerua Bay shops which is a good place for ice-creams. Suitably re-energised, we'll follow Rawhiti Road to the Goat Track which takes us back down to the beach where our vehicles await us.

Sun 27th-Sat 28th June Kapakapanui Hut *Easy*

Grame Curwen
027 391 2759

This loop track in the Tararua Ranges behind Waikanae takes us up to enjoy the goblin forest and our overnight stay at the large hut.

Trips beyond June can be viewed on the club website '[trip card.](#)'

Trip Grading - Trip grades depend on many factors, including weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient tramper 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

Upcoming PNTMC AGM: 30th July at the Quaker Hall – save the date!

When: 7.15 pm

Where: the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

Please consider whether you are able to commit a bit of time to the club by joining the committee. The committee meets approx once every 6 weeks. Meetings are not long and new committee members are not expected to take on any particular roles or responsibilities. If you want to know more, contact club president Anne Lawrence on 027 450 4212 or another committee member.

60th Jubilee: PNTMC Club is 60th years old this year and we are celebrating over Matariki weekend (9-11 July 2026). **Founding members will be in attendance.** All past and present members are invited to come together at a mid-winter gathering to celebrate PNTMC's 60th. (see overleaf for details).

Date: 10, 11, 12 July. This is Matariki weekend, so the Friday is a holiday.

Venue: [Camp Rangī Woods](#) at Totara Reserve in Pohangina. This is the same place as we held our 50th. A lovely place surrounded by bush, birds and various walks.

What's provided:

Bunk-room style accommodation

Lunch on the Friday

Dinner and supper on Friday and Saturday nights

Tea, coffee, etc on demand

Activities including gumboot throwing competition, Tararua biscuit competition, quiz, slide show, tramps for various levels of fitness/energy.

What to bring:

Sleeping bag and pillow

Drinks

Breakfasts

Lunch for the Saturday

What to wear:

Your favourite tramping gear eg Bushshirt and boots or similar

Basically whatever you like but keep it casual :)

What to do now: *Register and pay by 12 June.* [Click here to register.](#) Once you have paid your \$100 per person you can put the dates in your diary and relax. Any enquiries to pntmci@gmail.com.

Change to Petrol share calculation: the PNTMC committee discussed the petrol share for travel on PNTMC club trips. Following the IRD information cost will now be 40c per km.

Mountain Books: Bill Clague has kindly donated new mountain books to the PNTMC library. These will be a valuable addition to our library shelves at the Quakers Hall. Check them out when you next get a chance. If you take any home for a read please fill in the Borrowing Notebook.

InstaX 360 camera: PNCC Library owns an instaX 360 camera that takes 360 ° photos and videos and may be something that club members could use to capture tramping experiences. Waka Curd, at PNCC informs us they are looking for content people could visit 'virtually,' for example, library staff sometimes take the VR headsets to places like the Hospice. Residents there might appreciate being able to experience a tramp virtually. If you are interested, contact Waka.

Waka Curd

Digital Programmes Coordinator

06 351 4100

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PNTMC is associated with **Federated Mountain Clubs** <http://fmc.org.nz/>

A-Frame Hut and Stanfield Hut – (17th May).

Report and photos by Taylor Marston

Anne and Martin were joined by newcomer Taylor on what would be a strenuous but fulfilling tramp to A-Frame and Stanfield Huts, overcoming dynamic weather conditions and visibility that left much to be imagined.

The dynamic trio starting their tramp from the entrance at Tamaki West Road at 8:30 am and were met with a cloudy yet seemingly captivating grey sky. It has been some time since Anne and Martin last tramped this route, while it was a first for Taylor.

Getting to A-Frame Hut from the carpark required a steep zig zagging ascent which took roughly 2 hours. As we neared the top the surroundings changed dramatically from a lush cloud forest to a more open busy section. The grey sky, however, seemed hesitant to say goodbye. I can only assume we were great company.



After a quick pit stop at the hut, and a change into warmer clothing, we embarked on the next stage of our journey across the old Takapari road towards the track that descends to Standfield Hut. Despite the gloomy weather we remained in good spirits as we navigated large ponds, muddy terrain, and uninvited cold wind.

The descent towards Standfield Hut gave meaning to the word 'strenuous'. The wet weather turned each step into a slide, and some slides into slips. While the conditions did not make for easy walking, they did provide some mystical views. The descent supposedly only takes 45 minutes, but it took us closer to an hour and 20 minutes. We blamed the weather.

After arriving at Stanfield Hut in one piece, we stopped to have a much-earned lunch. The final step of the journey began with a walk along the river, which was much more forgiving on our knees. For a split second we thought we might be blessed with a glimpse of the sun, but alas the grey sky remained stalwart. As the last stretch, we took a pleasant stroll through Homes Ridge track on our way back to the carpark.

When we arrived at the carpark, we were surprised to find that Anne, who had been walking ahead of us, was nowhere to be seen. She had accidentally taken a wrong turn and was heading down a different track.



Thankfully, however, after exchanging a few shouts, we were quickly reunited.

All up the tramp took us around seven hours. Although some sections were gruelling, they were made easier due to good company and engaging conversation!

We were Anne (leader), Marin, Taylor.

River Ridge Loop and Gentle Annie – (10th May).

Report by Camille Penny

Photos by Camille Penny, Kirstie Priddle and tramping stranger.

The morning started out cold, wet, and blustery at Milverton Park. After a brief look at the map, we bundled into a car to get out of the wet and get to the trailhead. As we drove out of the grey and into the sunshine, we started to anticipate a lovely day.

We met up with Jenny at the carpark and without too much ado, set off. The track upriver was nice going, with some good looks at the kidney ferns in full spore! The DOC had fixed up a couple bridges along the way, and they now look quite sturdy. At our junction to River Ridge, we stopped for tea before heading uphill.

We headed up the steps to begin the River Ridge ascent and then it was up and up and up (and up). Happily, the steps give way very quickly to natural steps of tree roots for the rest of the track. The combination of sunlight filtering through the branches, ferns swaying softly, tiny furtive birds buzzing and chirping, moss everywhere, and a tree root maze leading you forward and ever up - it's a magical fairy path leading you into the heart of absolute



wonder. We happily soaked up the beauty and any sunshine we could stand in. As we neared the top, talk turned to finding the old Mountain Shelter - and lunch. We wound up eating lunch perched in the sunshine, sheltered mostly from the wind, just off the main track on the spur leading to the old shelter location.

We did a bit of bush bashing, following Warren's lead as he had a sense as to where the old shelter had been, and without too much struggle found ourselves at the flat. Not many remnants of the previous shelter besides one chunk of concrete footer still in the ground and a signpost still unclaimed by nature. We poked around a bit, and then Warren again took the lead to bring us out to the track to the Mountain Shelter. We had a celebratory bit of chocolate and then decided to head down to Rocky Lookout before the wind chilled us too much. Even though we could hear the wind, we were quite protected along Pig Flat and found the going down much speedier than the going up. At Rocky Lookout we enjoyed spectacular views and some welcome sunshine. After that, it was a quick descent back to the car park where we were rewarded with homemade blueberry muffins! Then it was a smooth drive back, arriving just in time for dinner.



We were: Kirstie (trip leader), Warren, Kat, Camille, and Jenny (friend of Kirstie's)



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Trip Reports: A Frame and Stanfield Hut, River Ridge and Gentle Annie loop

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Send articles to the newsletter editor at elderverity@gmail.com

Find us on facebook:

<https://tinyurl.com/pntmcfacebook>

Get out and about with us!

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