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# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

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P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

**Newsletter - July 2000**

## **\*\*\*THIS ISSUE\*\*\***

**Photo Competition results, Tibet slide show report,  
news from Scotland, Charlie Douglas book review**

**TRIP REPORTS:  
Beehive Creek, Blue Range,  
McKinnon Hut & Hikurangi 'skiing'**

## **CLUB NIGHTS**

<b>JULY 13</b>	<b>“Ladakh”</b>	<b>Sarah Lieberman</b>
<b>JULY 27</b>	<b>“Stewart Island &amp; The Hollyford”</b>	<b>Liz Flint</b>
<b>AUGUST 3</b>	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Peter Wiles’ place</b>
<b>AUGUST 10</b>	<b>“Mt Tasman”</b>	<b>Matthew Perrott</b>
<b>AUGUST 31</b>	<b>“White Island”</b>	<b>Scott McIntyre</b>

Club nights are held for all club members and visitors on the second and last Thursday of each month at the **Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North**. All club nights commence at 7:45 pm *sharp*, winter or summer. The PNTMC Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month.

At the club night: Please sign your name in the visitors book. A 50c door fee includes supper.

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## UP AND COMING TRIPS & EVENTS

### Trip Grades

Grades of trips can depend on many factors, most especially the weather and state of the track. As a guide, a reasonably proficient trumper would be expected to cover the graded trips in about the following times:

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs

Medium (M): 5-6 hrs

Fit (F): about 8 hrs

Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

(T) refers to technical trips requiring special skills and/or gear.

Beginners should start with Easy Grade trips.

13 July            Thursday trampers  
Graham Pritchard            357-1393

13 July            **Club night: "Ladakh"  
with Sarah Lieberman**

Ladakh is in northern India, encompassing the Himalayan Peaks near Kashmir. Sarah will talk about her 10-day trek above 3500m from Padun in the Zanskar Valley to Lamayuru. Sarah should have some great slides with this kind of subject.

15 July            Coppermine Creek            E  
Terry Crippen            356-3588

Depart 8am Located close to Woodville in the Ruahines, Coppermine Creek has a well maintained track that takes us to some of the old coppermine workings - first worked in the 1880s – and the magazine (a short tunnel used to store the explosives). Nearby are various tailings and railway track materials. Also a pleasant stream and regenerating bush. Can return the same way or via the spur track. Bring a torch. Back early afternoon.

16 July            Knights-Toka-Shorts            M/F  
Pete McGregor            w356-7154/ h 021 256-9001  
email: mcgregor@landcare.cri.nz

Depart 8:00 a.m. from the information sign on the Pohangina Road (just past the Valley Road intersection, or 100 m or so past the Waterford Cafe-bar...). From the Limestone Road carpark beyond Sixtus Lodge, we climb to the top of the range via Knights Track, to enjoy the huge views across to both sides of the Island and into the Pohangina above Leon Kinvig hut. We then head

south along the range (mostly downhill) to the top of Shorts Track, which takes us back to the cars.

20 July            Thursday trampers  
Rose & Ken Hall            356-8538

22-23 July            Arete Biv            FE  
Derek Sharp            326-8178

Head into Herepai Hut Friday night, then up along Dundas Ridge to Arete Biv for Saturday night. A long and challenging day Sunday, with a traverse of Bannister and Waingawa, before a cruise along Cattle Ridge, and down and out to the car via Roaring Stag Lodge.

23 July            Mt Cook - K2            all/T  
Laurence Gatehouse            356-5805

*Note change of leader: Warren is no longer leading this trip.*

Depart 6am. Millennium Madness Strikes Again! Are you going on Snowcraft this year or still thinking about it? Do you need to practise your climbing and rope skills? Feel the need to conquer the highest peaks in the area? Feel like a Millennium Challenge to tell your grand-children? Yes? Then join us for a dawn climb of the icy South Face of K2, followed by a hearty breakfast at Base Camp, then de-camp and move on to ascend Mt Cook by noon.

Crampons, ice axes and ropes are essential but our experienced guides will help you obtain these beforehand and ensure you successfully reach the summits.

27 July            Applications close for Snowcraft 1  
See information regarding the Snowcraft Programme in the NOTICES.

27 July            Thursday trampers  
Russell Johnson            358-7777

**27 July            Club night: "Stewart Island  
and The Hollyford" with Liz Flint**

An evening with Liz talking about the highlights of her ventures in the deep south last summer, including a 12-day NW circuit on Stewart Island, and the Demon Trail in the lower Hollyford. There will be no slides, so it will be a short-ish evening, but Liz will bring some photos along. She will also have some contacts and phone

numbers if you are planning a similar trip in these areas.

29-30 July Outdoor First Aid Course (NZMSC)  
Dianne Siegenthaler 357-7237

Very useful to have some knowledge of first aid for tramping. These courses are practical and utilise outdoor settings. For registration forms contact Dianne (also at Mountain equipment).

29 July Ngauruhoe climb F, T  
Alan Bee 323-4582

Should be a fit trip with a bit of technical if the snows come this winter. Crampon up west face and bum slide the north. Leave Feilding clock tower at 6am! or meet at Mangatepopo car park at 9am-ish.

30 July Waiopahu M  
Liz Flint 356-7654

Depart 7-30am. A walk up into the foothills of the western Tararuas, back of Levin. Ring Liz for details.

2 Aug (Wed) Snowcraft 1 evening for participants  
*See information regarding the Snowcraft Instruction in the NOTICES.*

3 Aug Thursday trampers  
Sue & Lawson Pither 357-3033

3 Aug Committee meeting  
Terry Crippen's place

#### CONSERVATION WEEK WALK:

5 Aug Mick Leyland 358-3183  
This will be a leisurely walk for all, route & location yet to be decided. Possibilities include Rangi Hut or Coppermine Creek. Contact Mick for details.

5-6 Aug Snowcraft 1 M/F, I  
Terry Crippen 356-3588  
Bruce van Brunt 328-4761

*See information regarding the Snowcraft Instruction in the NOTICES.*

6 Aug Hemi Matenga all  
Liz Morrison 357-6532

Depart 8am. This is a leisurely walk through some interesting bush in the coastal foothills behind Waikanae. No great distances, so suitable for all.

10 Aug Applications close for Snowcraft 2

10 Aug Thursday trampers  
Keith Domett 04 562-7322

**10 Aug Club night: "Mt Tasman"**  
**Matthew Perrott**

This is the Interclub Guest Speaker evening, with Matthew Perrott of MTSC giving a slide presentation of an awesome climbing trip to Mt Cook National Park and the second highest peak in New Zealand.

12-13 Aug Ngamoko-Iron Gates M  
Dave Henwood 326-8892

Depart 7am. A loop track up onto the Ngamoko Range in the mid-western Ruahines, returning via Iron Gates Hut and the Oroua River. Ring Dave for details.

13 Aug Tunupo M  
Peter Darragh 323-4498

Depart 7-30am. This is a reasonably gentle ascent for the height gained, climbing up onto the Ngamoko Range from Heritage Lodge in the mid-western Ruahines, with good views from the Tunupo summit. Return via the same route.

16 Aug (Wed) Snowcraft 2 evening for participants  
*See information regarding the Snowcraft Instruction in the NOTICES.*

17 Aug Thursday trampers  
Judy Calleson 357-0192

19-20 Aug Snowcraft 2 (prerequisite SC1)  
M/F, I Terry Crippen 356-3588  
Bruce van Brunt 328-4761

*See information regarding the Snowcraft Instruction in the NOTICES.*

20 Aug Roaring Stag M  
Malcolm Parker 357-5203

Depart 7am. A nice daywalk in from Putara Rd end in the northeastern Tararuas. An early departure means a leisurely 2 hours or so at Roaring Stag Lodge, for lunch and maybe a spot of trout fishing?

24 Aug Applications close for Snowcraft 3  
24 Aug Thursday trampers  
Bev Akers 325-8879

25-27 Aug Ruahine Classic FE, T

Derek Sharp 326-8178

This is the penultimate trip on the winter club calendar for fit and experienced trampers. Derek will head up to Rangī Hut Friday night, then onto the Whanahuia Range and Te Hekenga on Saturday, with the option of iglooming near Tiraha summit Saturday night if the party is keen. On via Sawtooth Ridge Sunday, and out to Purity via Hawkes Bay Range.

26 Aug Iron Gates Hut E/M  
Martin Lawrence 357-1695

Depart 8am. A nice forest sidle track following the upper Oroua River into Iron Gates Hut for lunch. Back out the same route, as water

temperatures may be a bit cold for walking down the river this time of year!

28 Aug (Tues) Inter Club Photo Competition  
This will be hosted by PNTMC this year, but held at a Massey venue. More details next newsletter.

31 Aug Thursday trampers  
Liz Flint 356-7654

**31 Aug Club night: "White Island"**  
**Scott McIntyre**

Smoking volcanoes - no worries, right? You might change your mind after seeing Scott's slide presentation on this For-Crazy-Tourists-Only destination in the Bay of Plenty.

#### **Trip participants:**

If you are interested in going on a trip, please contact the leader at least three days in advance. Trips usually leave from the Foodtown carpark in Fergusson Street with transport provided by car-pooling. A charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip, the amount depending on the distance travelled and vehicles used. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance. For general information or any suggestions for future tramps please contact one of the trip co-ordinators Terry Crippen (356-3588), Janet Wilson (329-4722) or David Grant (357-8269).

**Trip leaders:** Please discuss with the trip co-ordinators, as soon as possible, if there is any doubt that you will be unable to run your trip as scheduled. This is so that alternatives can be arranged, put in the newsletter, or passed on at club night.

#### **\*\*\* OVERDUE TRIPS \*\*\***

Enquiries to: Mick Leyland (358-3183), Terry Crippen (356-3588), or David Grant (357-8269)

### NOTICES

#### ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

All kinds of articles (trip reports, interesting information & anecdotes, book reviews, product reviews, etc etc) are welcome for inclusion in this newsletter. Articles may be hand-written or sent by e-mail to the newsletter editor John Phillips (see address on end page).

It is preferable to include your article as an attachment (please use Microsoft Word Version 7.0 or Rich Text Format), unless it is quite a small article, in which case it is fine to cut-&-paste into the e-mail.

Note that scanned **photos** must be sent with a covering e-mail (or phone call to John) to:

[postmaster@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:postmaster@horizons.govt.nz).

The deadline for anything to go in each month's issue is the **FIRST THURSDAY** of the month.

#### FROM THE PRESIDENTS PC

Winter, where is thy sting?  
Ah impetuous youth, hold fast  
For when snows cold grip is here at last  
All will be well, Joy the thing.

Cast off fiery summers spell  
Like autumn's leaves  
Freed to the breeze

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Chill tales soon to tell.

Sharpen your axe  
Polish your boots  
Rake hoary beard  
Dust off the maps.

Release us from this torpid spell  
May the world ice over  
Make way for the pullover  
Arise from purgatory, far from Hell.

Yes, 'tis the winter of our discontent and time for apologies to the ghost of great bards past. Enough, enough I say. To the high ramparts all. There be the sweet smell of battle on the breeze. Do be careful not to sneeze.

What madness grips our lord? Be it the darkness of the days which bringeth on this gentle craze? Begone subtle demons, devious wit. Free us from this diabolical script. Grant us a sweet ending, strong and true. How about let the skies be always Blue? Now there's a lark. And to be sure, mad dogs at full moon do howl and bark. Now there's a Truth that is seldom taught.

Which brings me to the FMC Annual General Meeting. Both Terry Crippen and I went along as club representative and observer respectively. It was very interesting to enter the corridors of power (well, a room actually) and to put faces to the names we usually only see in articles in the FMC Bulletin. There was no chance for dozing off between breaks for tea and scones with our inimitable president David Round at the helm. For example, after a short prepared speech by a lively Phillida Bunkle M.P., he thanked the Hon. Bunkle with "your words are like glow-worms on a mossy bank".

The government seems keen to build a base of public support for Conservation, with Conservation Week 2000 having the theme "Enjoy Your Parks". There also seems to be greater acknowledgement of the scope for involvement of volunteers rather than relying solely on DOC staff.

VAMP was discussed with reference to the variable interpretations and actions in different conservancies (especially hut removal), and public access is a hot topic to be addressed in a review of Legislation.

FMC is to host a Wild Lands Conference to be held later this year to thrash out the future strategic direction for outdoor recreation.

The meeting adopted a number of resolutions including one to congratulate the Minister on achieving the increase in budget for Conservation. An interesting time ahead it seems.

Back to the Real World.

The recent Mid-Winter Celebrations were again based at Sue and Lawson Pither's Lodge in Rangataua. It was supported by a hardy party few who dressed up in an impressive range of gear for the Tweed, Leather and Lace evening. On behalf of the Club I made a somewhat belated presentation to Lawson Pither in acknowledgement of his many years service as Club Auditor (1973-2000). I am sorry that this was overlooked at the last AGM and trust you agree with the Committee's choice of gift - "Classic Tramping" by Shaun Barnett.

There is a fair bit coming up in the next couple of months. There are more details in this newsletter.

For Conservation Week "Enjoy Your Parks" we have decided to raise the Club Profile by running a trip up Coppermine Creek or to Rangi Hut on 5 August, thanks to Mick Leyland for offering to lead that. The Snowcraft Course is starting to fill for the 3 weekends in August. The Interclub Photo Competition will be on 28 August at Massey.

Various club members will be out and about overseas over their summer. Dave Grant has just headed off to the UK and some hiking in the Pyrenees. John Phillips, Alan Bee and James Gordon are heading to Nepal in October to trek the Dhaulagiri circuit. I am away from 22 July until 5 September for a Boutique Wilderness Adventure in Northern Sweden - yes, this is my third year...perhaps the mosquitos will get me this time.

Terry will be standing in as President while I am away. Good luck, Terry. Lawrence Gatehouse has kindly taken on the role of Expedition Leader for my advertised Trip to K2-MtCook on 23 July - my best wishes go with those intrepid club members and friends who embark on this Great Millennium Challenge.

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Good Tramping  
Warren Wheeler



## SNOWCRAFT INSTRUCTION 2000

### *SNOW GLORIOUS SNOW*

Each year the club runs a snowcraft instruction programme to equip people with the skills to safely get out and about into the white stuff on winter trips and down south over the summer holidays: basic skills for straight forward travel in snow on easy terrain, simple snow climbing, to aspects of technical snow and ice climbing and mountaineering.

The instruction programme is in three parts; SC 1 (basic), SC 2 (intermediate) and SC 3 (advanced). It involves three weekends away up Mt Ruapehu and/or Mt Egmont and two Wednesday night evenings (*not* Tuesdays, as printed in the May newsletter) preceding SC1 and SC2. A progressive approach is used: SC 1 assumes nil or only minor experience with snow, SC 2 develops skills learnt on SC 2, and SC 3 on those of SC 2.

Costs: SC1 \$120, SC2 \$130, SC3 \$100, or a one off payment of \$335

Registration: Places on each weekend are limited. Confirmation of places on the complete or part programme requires registration form accompanied by the fee, to be accepted by the organisers.

### Programme Dates:

27 July (Club night) *Applications close for SC1*  
2 August (Wed evening) *SC1 Intro and briefing*  
[*Note: changed from Tuesday in May newsletter*]  
5 -6 August *SC1 Weekend Mt Ruapehu*  
(*depart Friday night*)

10 August (Club night) *Application close for SC2*  
16 August (Wed evening) *SC2 Intro to rope work*  
[*Note: changed from Tuesday in May newsletter*]  
19-20 August SC2 Mt Ruapehu (*dep Friday night*)

24 August *Applications close for SC3*  
2-3 Sept *SC3 Mt Egmont (depart Sat morning)*

Open to both club members and non club members. Pass the word round to any friends you know who are keen to get into snow activities.

For further information & registration forms contact Terry Crippen 3563-588, Warren Wheeler 356-1998, or Bruce van Brunt 328-4761

### NEW CLUB MEMBER

We welcome a new member to PNTMC this month:

Alasdair Noble  
475 Albert St, PN  
Phone: 356-1094

Welcome to the club Alasdair.

### PNTMC MEMBER IN SCOTLAND

Peter Burgess, who left for Scotland recently, has just completed climbing all the Munros on Skye. (The Munros are the Peaks over 3000 ft in the Scottish mountains. Not very high by NZ standards but can be challenging at times). Plenty of midges and weather. He is now off to the outer Hebrides.

### RESULTS OF THE 2000 PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

This year, John Cleland judged our annual photograph competition. Each section was well represented, with some stiff competition (note some second equal placings). We firstly viewed the slides, then the prints. John short-listed the best ones, provided comments, and we all voted. Now that's democracy in action. Sure, some people dominated some sections, but I'm sure that viewers will agree that Harley Betts is a well deserving winner. At least he left a few places for others to obtain!

Slides  
*NZ Scenic*



1. Sunset on Taranaki Harley Betts
2. Trampler & Clouds Barry Scott
2. Trampers at Rangī Tony Gates

#### NZ Alpine

1. Syme Hut Harley Betts
2. Taranaki Harley Betts
3. Climbing at Tasman Saddle Terry Crippen

#### NZ Natural History

1. Seaweed Harley Betts
2. Frozen Grass Tony Gates



3. Fungi Harley Betts

#### NZ Topical

1. The Photographer Tony Gates
2. Centennial Hut Terry Crippen

3. Climber and Glacier Terry Crippen

#### Overseas Scenic/ Alpine

1. Coastal Rocks Harley Betts
2. Coastal Rocks Harley Betts
3. Trees Harley Betts

#### Overseas People

1. Self portrait, Scotland Terry Crippen
2. Trampler on snow Terry Crippen
3. Trampler on bridge Terry Crippen

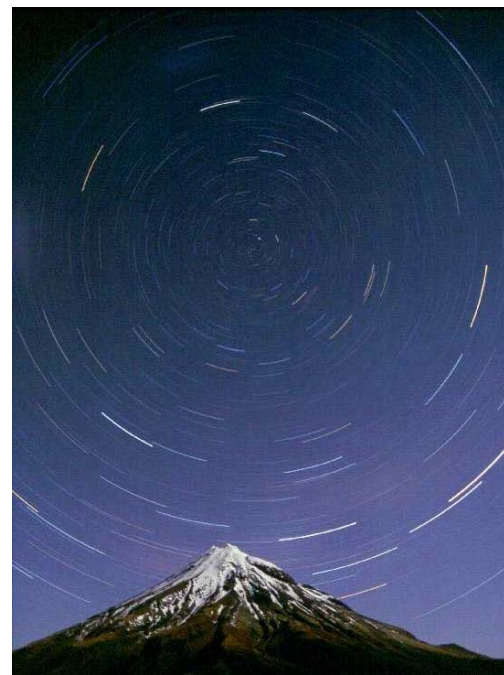
#### Prints

#### NZ Scenic



1. Canoe, Lake Tarawera Kevin Pearce
2. Te Rakanuiokura Tony Gates
3. Lake Alexandrina Merv Mathews

#### NZ Alpine



1. Taranaki & Stars Harley Betts
2. Icy Tararuas Tony Gates

## 3. Milford Sound/ Getrude Saddle

Kevin Pearce

NZ Natural History

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. Ruapehu Eruption | Harley Betts |
| 2. Poroungaki Whio  | Tony Gates   |
| 3. Fat Takahe       | Tony Gates   |

NZ Topical

- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Nelson Lakes Scene | Merv Mathews |
| 2. Tasman Glacier     | Andrew Lynch |
| 3. Lake Dive Track    | Harley Betts |

Overseas Scenic/ Alpine

- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Lake at Maine, USA | Jo Cuthbert  |
| 2. Chomolongma 8848   | Kevin Pearce |
| 3. Everest Base Camp  | Kevin Pearce |

Overseas People

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Cairn in Norway | Warren Wheeler |
|--------------------|----------------|

## AVALANCHE AWARENESS TRAINING

Please note on the trip card that there is a course on 6-7 October (Friday-Saturday) being run by Mountain Safety Council. It will be held at Ohakune/Turoa, so note in your diaries now.

## OUTWARD BOUND COOKIES

- 6 ozs butter – softened.
- 2 heaped Tbsp. Peanut Butter
- 1 Tbsp. Golden Syrup
- 1 Tsp Vanilla Essence
- 1 cup raw sugar

Mix together, then add:-

- 1 cup shelled peanuts or other mixed nuts
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 2 cups Rolled Oats
- 2 tsp Baking Soda
- ½ cup Raisins
- ½ cup Sesame seeds
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1½ cups flour approx – to make dough consistency.

Put in spoonsful on baking paper, flatten a little.  
Bake at 150°C (300° F) 15-20 minutes.

Makes about 30.

Happy Tramping !  
(from the President's Mum)

EASTERN TIBET by Tony Gates

I recently attended a wonderful slide show in Wellington by John Nankervis and Martin Hunter. They told wonderful tales, and presented some utterly gorgeous scenes of forests, mountains, and lakes in Eastern Tibet (where the Bramaputra river curls around the Himalayas).

Eastern Tibet is an incredibly remote area, with vast areas that have never been explored, let alone climbed. Some botanists looked at the area in the 1920's, then politics got in the way. The potential for trekking, climbing, and anything else like rafting and kayaking is endless. Martin described it as the best of Nepal and Peru, with settled weather, mountains, and scenery.

Where's your next tramp?

SOME CLUB CORRESPONDENCE ON  
CAVING ROPES . . .

*Hi peoples,  
I've just had a request (from a club member) to borrow the club's borrowable climbing rope for caving, in particular to join to 3 or 4 other ropes to descend/ascend Harwards Hole. At this stage I said no, suggesting that static ropes would be more suitable for such a long pitch and ropes used for caving would get more wear/abrasion/grit. I also suggested the person making the enquiry contact Janet Wilson and/or Graham Peters, "our" caving experts. I also think that we are here to promote/facilitate climbing as against caving (apart from when we have a club caving trip).*

*Your views would be appreciated.  
Terry Crippen*

Reply from Andy Backhouse:

*Hi Terry,  
I agree.  
1) Under 70Kg load a climbing rope will stretch very roughly 10% vs 3-4% for static rope. Any rub points (if there are any) will therefore suffer more wear. Jumaring on such a rope is tedious in the extreme. Even 40m on mechanical jumars on a climbing rope with no knot passes, which I have done was much slower than on a caving rope.  
2) They will have to make several knot passes, more than they would with a caving rope usually bought off the reel, often in longer lengths. This is slower, & increases the risk of errors. In the UK I have known of fatalities on long shafts caused by*



*moderately experienced cavers taking their inexperienced climbing mates down long shafts with knot passes on climbing rope. I used my (now the club's) yellow climbing rope on the bottom 20m of a 60m pitch at Waitomo & it bounced alot. Not pleasant, I was very glad it wasn't the full height, let alone the height of Harwood's.*

*3)Those who do not own their own ropes or are not responsible for them tend not to take care of them. Those who thought of using such a rope this way are unlikely to know how to rig it properly, even if it is "a straightforward shaft". Cave rigging is quite different in approach to climbing rigging.*

*4)Anyone trying to use the club climbing ropes for that purpose may not know what they are doing down there anyway. The Nelson area cavers get enough rescues out of there as it is. Janet & Graham, or Steve Glasgow of MSG, would be well positioned to work out if they are up to it, & if so, who they can get a suitable rope from.*

*5)They would need most of the club ropes, so you risk trashing maybe 4 ropes in one outing, when most of them aren't even made available for club members to use for climbing. Our ropes would also be heavier than the 10mm static rope they ought to be using.*

*6)When using caving ropes you use suitable protection for rope, & the rope itself is more abrasion resistant ( though rope against rock, you can guess which wears more).*

*In short, don't.*

*Andy*

BOOK REVIEW by Tony Gates

"Mr Explorer Douglas" John Pascoe's New Zealand Classic, revised by Graham Langton, 2000. CUP, Chch

If you could accurately (or even roughly) calculate the sum total of all of the cumulative tramping experience of all PNTMC members forever, then I reckon that that figure could probably be equalled by one Mr Charlie Douglas. This character is one of the true greats of New

Zealand tramping history, a person whose name is indelibly linked with exploration of the West Coast of the South Island.

Scottish born Charlie Douglas arrived in Dunedin during December 1862, and died in 1916. From 1867 till 1903, he explored, mapped, named places, geologised, botanised, studied birds, and probably most importantly, wrote of his exploits in South Westland. There was intense pressure to find mineral and timber wealth, potential routes (especially over the Southern Alps), and anything else of value, as Europeans developed the area. So Charlie Douglas found that he could live in those remote valleys, do a valuable job, and then record it. He must have been very astute to note things that would be of great interest to any modern day tramper, and often of vital scientific interest. The native bird life is frequently mentioned, and the cause of its decline. Glaciers too, were mentioned, and some remarkable illustrations of the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers should be noted.

Well known prolific Palmerston North historian and author Graham Langton has done a fine job of re editing John Pascoe's wonderful book. Sure, it may lack some photos from the earlier edition, and it only has a soft cover (costs!), but there are a few new photographs by Craig Potton. The book commences with an introduction by Charlie Douglas's good friend, A P Harper (NZAC), then there is nearly 100 pages on his life. The guts of the book, nearly 200 pages, is taken from Douglas's own writings. His wit, poetry, and philosophy really shine out here. Imagine, a lonely old man spending months at a time up the bush, alone but for his faithful dog, and writing pearls of wisdom that readers still love.

The final chapter is named "an appreciation", then there are some fictional Charlie Douglas stories (did gold miners ever tell the truth). Appendices then tell how his writings were preserved. We can be thankful that Charlie, and then John Pascoe, then Graham Langton, did such a good job.

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## TRIP REPORTS

### BEEHIVE CREEK WALKWAY

11 June                      by Terry Crippen

Four of us partook in this gentle morning walk in light rain. Before heading along the walkway Warren investigated the undersides of the road bridge and discovered the name-sake of the walkway; a feral beehive hanging from the beam (although I don't think that particular beehive and probably not even the bridge would have been in existence when the creek was named).

The walk is up a narrow steep sided valley cut in weak sandstone common to the area. Ross and Terry both being earth scientists displayed excellent lack of geological knowledge in trying to work out how old the sandstone was (so had to make use of the information pamphlet). Lots of poplars and willows, planted for erosion control, are mixed in with Kowhai and Ongaonga. Ute, from Germany, resisted suggestions from the three NZ'ers to test the effects of grabbing Ongaonga by the hand! Numerous fantails fluttered about our feet on the hunt for food.

A couple of kms up the creek the poled route climbs up onto the farmland and down to the road to finish the walk. We managed to take considerably longer than the time given on the pamphlet. And why not, we had all morning. After the walk back to the vehicle along the road it was off to the Waterfords for a coffee or two, chocolate and carrot cake, with lashings of whipped cream.

The four of us were; Ute, Warren, Ross and Terry.

### MCKINNON HUT      17-18 June

by Martin Lawrence and Tony Gates

The week prior to this tramp was memorable for some cold snow-forming weather followed by beautiful clear days at the end of the week. We knew that there would be plenty of snow on the Hikurangi Range and were hoping that some of clear weather would hold out over the weekend. This was not to be as we started from the Kawhatau Base in light drizzle. We started as four - Tony and Martin from PN with Mike and Delmar joining us from Taihape. All except

Martin were hoping to combine the tramp with a bit of skiing on the tops.

We were soon warmed up by winching ourselves across the Kawhatau River - a pretty robust sort of contraption, but I did wonder if a bit of grease might make the turning easier. After these efforts we needed a drinks break to mentally prepare ourselves for one of the steepest ascents in the Ruahines.

We eventually reached the cloud base and the bush line, and took time out to put on all that warm gear that we had lugged up the hill. Pretty soon Tony found enough snow amongst the tussock to test out his cross-country skis. The rest of us plodded on until Mike and Delmar decided that carrying skis in these conditions wasn't on and returned to their vehicle. We had 20 minutes of snow plugging to "enjoy" before reaching the hut, they had that track to descend, I mean *that* track. Talk about jellied knees! Slippery under foot as well.



For us, visibility was reasonable, so we weren't troubled about finding the right route, though we did have to take some care when descending off the ridge as the marker posts ran out. Needless to say McKinnon hut was a very welcome sight at about 3pm that afternoon.

Our dreams of a huge raging blaze to warm and dry us weren't quite realised, but nevertheless there is something comforting about foraging for wood and building up a fire. Who needs TV when you can tend and watch a good fire? Personally, I'd much prefer a more economical firebox, like the 'Corker Cooker', to the open fire.

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Unfortunately, there was neither clear weather nor frosts. A pity to lose use of the full moon when in such a place- we had had plans for cramponing onto the tops to watch the sunrise. First light was not very bright on Sunday morning so we dallied until after nine. This proved to be a smart move as no sooner were we ready to go than the wind god flicked off the clouds, giving us some sun and a view of other peaks. With greatly lifted spirits we then retraced our footsteps through loose snow back up the ridge. The ridge top was shrouded in cloud but we made good time back to the bushline. Tony was able to ski a little again between the tussock. It's kind of reassuring to follow footprints in the snow when you know where they are going.

Our trip wasn't quite over when we reached the car as we had to negotiate four gates, one very nervous horse, pigs, hens and a very assertive stag who didn't take kindly to a mere human walking past him to open a gate. However we did safely make the last gate where the current property owners require you to fill out their log book.

Photo by Martin Lawrence: Tony Gates, Mike Peat, Delmar Schaeffer, at the lovely, sheltered camp sight at the bushline, Hikurangi Range.

#### BLUE RANGE HUT, VIA REEF CREEK

Sunday, June 18 by Kath Large

Forecasting "fine, with winds to gale force" seemed as good a reason as any for a Sunday jaunt to the Wairarapa. And, anyway, can't see the weeds in the garden from over the hill...even better. Three carloads left the Palmy Foodtown carpark fairly promptly after 8am, emerging from low cloud on the Pahiatua track to an almost gloriously fine day on the other side. Clouds lay over the Tararua tops, but the foothills, where we were headed, seemed clear enough (Trip Leader passes test #1).

Blue Range Hut sits just north of the Blue Range high point, Te Mara (1104m). Access is via Kiriwhakapapa Road, heading off State Highway 2, south of Mt. Bruce. There's plenty of parking at the road-end, convenient toilets, and a large

shelter - to huddle away from the wind where we checked out the map. Left the carpark around 9.30, along the track for a short walk, then headed off-track to follow Reef Creek, before heading up the hill to the ridge that leads to the hut. We didn't experience the wind much till we got onto this ridge. Felt more like trying to make it to the loo on a bad Cook Strait ferry crossing; beech trees were swaying at alarming angles, with platforms of roots lifting in waves underfoot...spooky!

The tidy Blue Range Hut offered welcome shelter from the breeze, arriving around midday. A cosy place for lunch and a chat. Just when I thought a leisurely post-lunch snooze was in order, Warren let the fox loose and it was time to head out. We left at 1pm, following the well trodden and marked track out, arriving back at the carpark just after 2.30pm.

An excellent Sunday outing. I really enjoyed the round trip, getting off the track on the way up. The going up was reasonably straight forward. Rock-hopping along the stream and climbing among the ferns and moss kept the walk interesting and picturesque. A fast pace was set on the way down, but a more leisurely approach (me being one of the last back!) offered the opportunity to check out some good forest exhibits, e.g. the massive rimu and brightly coloured fungi (check out [www.fungi.co.nz](http://www.fungi.co.nz)). Also seen along the track from the hut were several beech trees with metal bands, protecting mistletoe plants higher in the canopy from possum browsing. These mistletoe were discovered about 5 years ago. Keep a look out in Dec-Jan for fallen reddy-orange flowers. DoC are keen to establish the location of more of these plants.

Many thanks to: PNTMC for taking along non-members on their trips; Warren for organising and leading the tramp; and the drivers for getting us safely there and back. Tramping into Blue Range Hut were: Warren Wheeler, Pete Davies, Andrew Lynch, Ross Quayle, Jenny Le Quesne, Marion & Mick Leyland, Jenny & Llew Pritchard, Janet Shields, Phil Eades and Kath Large.

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