



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - April 2004

CLUB NIGHTS

Club nights are on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, at 7:45pm **sharp**. All welcome!

At the club night: Please sign the visitor's book. A 50c door fee includes supper.

Mar 25 **AGM & Auction** (see March newsletter)

Apr 8 **SAR & Digital Mapping**
Matt Farrelly

Matt will be outlining the application of new-fangled modern technology to improve the management and planning of Search and Rescue operations. Note that this talk was scheduled for last month, but had to be postponed. Matt's talk tonight therefore replaces Lances "Cycling in Europe," which will feature at a future clubnight.

Apr 22 Committee Meeting

Apr 29 **BYO Slides**
Warren Wheeler

What did you get up to over summer? Bring along a selection of slides of your exploits in the mountains. This is a chance to share stories and pictures with fellow club members. Your club needs YOU! (imagine a poster of Warren with a finger pointing right at your face). So bring along some slides if you can, or just come along for the show.

E-mail articles to doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz
or post to 1 Worsfold Lane, Palm. North
(by 20th of month)

For lots more photos & trips, check out
www.pntmc.org.nz

TRIPS

Please contact the leader at least three days in advance. Trips leave from Foodtown carpark. A reasonably proficient trumper can be expected to do the trips in the following times:

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs *Technical skills reqd (T)*

Medium (M): 5-6 hrs *Instructional (I)*

Fit (F): about 8 hrs

Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

Mar 27-28 Contorta Slaughter, TNP (see March newsletter)

Apr 3-4 **Cattle Ck Crossing** **E/M**
Mick Leyland **358 3183**

A Ruahine crossing. Tramp in to Mid-Pohangina Hut. The next day, complete the crossing via Cattle Creek and Stanfield huts. Quite a bit of time will be spent walking in water, following the river. 7:30 start. Also this weekend...

Apr 4 **Cattle Ck Hut** **M**
Llew Prichard **358 2217**

In to Cattle Creek Hut via Stanfield. As Mick's group will be coming the other way, this provides options. The planned trip is to go to Cattle Ck and back. However, a subgroup could splinter off, swap keys with Mick, and do a fit southern Ruahine Crossing day trip.

Apr 8-13 **South Island Climbing** **F, T**
(Easter Week) Terry Crippen **356 3588**

A six day or more trip to probably Nelson Lakes, but could be elsewhere, with some peaks to be attempted. I've got various things in mind. Climbing and rope skills needed. Probably leaving PN about midnight on the 7th and getting back at a similar late time! Contact me ASAP for ferry bookings.

TRIPS contd

Daytrip **Easter Eggmont** **M/F**
 Warren Wheeler **356 1998**

Depart 6.30am Easter Sunday (or other day if weather better then). We will go up the East Ridge to the Sharks Tooth and over to the summit, then down again by what ever route suits. If you would prefer the option of doing this as a moonlight-dawn trip(depart 4.30pm, sleep at the shelter, depart 3.00am) let WW know.

Apr 18 **Farm Walk** **E**
 Malcolm Leary **06 322 8533**

The tramp to Trains Hut, as listed on the trip card, has been derailed by the damaging storm. In Lieu of that, come along for an easy farm walk to see storm-damaged Hunterville Hills. We'll be mostly on 4-wheel-drive tracks. Leave "Foodtown" 8am.

Apr 18 **Tunupo** **M**
 Anja Scholz **356 6454**

DOC Wanganui advised that the Atene walkway is closed until further notice because of a big slip. Hence, the Tunupo trip planned for May will now go ahead in April, with the Atene walkway on the cards for May 16, and an update on that in the next newsletter.

Starting from Table Flat Road, Apiti, a well-graded track leads up through the bush to open tussock and on to prominent Tunupo peak (1568 m) in the Ngamoko Range. Good views in fine weather, the consolation of Kimbolton Cafe if wet. 7:30 am start from the ex-Foodtown carpark.

Apr 24 **Diggers Hut** **M**
 Warren Wheeler **356 1998**

Depart 8.00am. From Pohangina Valley East Road, we go up onto the southern Ruahine Range, down to Diggers Hut (2 hours), then 4-5km down the Makawakawa Stream to the carpark.

Apr 25 **Ruapehu Tama Lake** **M/F**
 Peter Wiles **358 6894**

Leave PN at 6 am. Intend to aim for Chateau if weather okay and visit the north lava field on Ruapehu before dropping down to Lower Tama Lake for lunch.

May 1-2 **Coppermine-Kumeti** **M**
 Richard Lockett **323 0948**

In via Coppermine, then along to Keretaki Hut where we'll overnight. Out to Kumeti road the next day, encountering the Maharahara day trippers along the way. Set off at 7:30 for the S. Ruahines.

May 2 **Maharahara Crossing** **M**
 Craig Allerby **323 5356**

Cross the southern Ruahines via this 1095m peak. Probably link up with the Kumeti party for transport.

Trip participants:

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Foodtown carpark. A charge for transport will be collected on the day. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance. For general info, or any suggestions for future tramps, please contact Terry Crippen (356-3588), Janet Wilson (329-4722) or Andrew Lynch (325-8779).

Trip leaders:

Please advise a trip coordinator, as soon as possible, if 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 Janet Wilson (329 4722)

LIFE'S A BEECH

Red beech is the tallest of NZ's 4 beech species.

Black beech and mountain beech do not have serrated leaves.

The yellow-head is found only in beech forests.

Fossil evidence tells us there was once beech forests on current-day Antarctica.

"There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing."

Sir Rannulph Fiennes

NOTICES

Storm Damage/Doc Notices, New Member, Bed and Breakfast Tramping

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES can be e-mailed to doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz or delivered to 1 Worsfold Lane, PN

DAMAGE REPORT

Due to damage by wind and rain, it is advisable to check with DOC about road and track access. Some road info can be found on district council websites. As of 10/03/04...

Manawatu Gorge Track: Closed for repair work. Not expected to re-open before 31st March. Access along SH 3 not currently possible anyway. **WARNING:** Due to the undermining of structures, the track is in an unstable and dangerous condition and should not be used even by Mick.

Number 1 Line: Open

Opawe Road: Open

Takapari Road: Open but 4WD recommended.

Takapari track: Open.

Table Flat Rd - Heritage Lodge/Limestone Rd: Open

Oroua Track to Heritage Lodge: Major slips & washouts but only on the first few hundred metres of track. Care is needed.

Rangiwahia: Te Parapara Road north of Rangiwahia is being worked on. 4WD vehicles can reach the Park boundary via Apiti.

Track to Rangiwahia hut: Open.

Mid Pohangina Hut: Sidle track has impassable slips at the start of the track (where it crosses Kevin Billet's farmland). Access is still possible upstream from the Piripiri Bridge.

Otukota Hut: Big slips on track in from Mokai Station. These are difficult to cross, and extreme care is needed. Alternative route via Bruce Ridge.

Mokai Road access: 4WD is recommended for most back roads at the moment.

Coppermine track: Closed until further notice. This includes access to the Coppermine Loop, Wharite Peak and Billy Goat tracks.

Kawhatau Base: Road access is single lane in places. Care is needed and 4WD is recommended.

REDUCED CAPACITY IN HUTS

Due to hut upgrade work the following huts will have reduced capacity from 28 Feb – early April:

- Carkeek Hut (NZMS 260 S25 122 435)
- Dundas Hut (NZMS 260 S25 182 514)
- Cow Creek Hut (NZMS 260 S25 202 447)

If you intend to use these huts during this period a tent or fly is recommended – also contact Wairarapa Area Office for update information.

TRACK MAINTENANCE

The following tracks are being maintained. Delays can be expected. Track workers will signal safe passage. Workers will be using associated huts for accommodation.

Atiwhakatu and Waingawa River Catchments

Barra Track (Upper Waingawa Road end to Mitre Flats Hut)

Mitre Flats to Atiwhakatu Track (Mitre Flat Hut to Atiwhakatu Hut via Pinnacle Saddle)

Baldy Track (From Pinnacle Saddle to bushline on Baldy)

Atiwhakatu Track (Atiwhakatu to Holdsworth Rd end)

Waiohine Catchment

Cone Saddle Tk (Cone Saddle to Cone)

Cone Ridge (Cone via Cone Ridge to Totara Flats Hut)

Waiohine Tk (Totara Flats Hut to Walls Whare via Waiohine River)

Mitre Flats Bridge Closed (NZMS 260 S26 191 391)
The Mitre Flats swing bridge across the Waingawa River is damaged and unsafe. There is no 'all weather' access from the Upper Waingawa Rd end.

Wairarapa Area Office, Masterton. Ph. (06) 377 0700

NEW MEMBER

Adrienne Cavanagh (tel. 353 6526) is now a full-fledged member of the PNTMC. Congratulations!

Gina Fermor has a new address and phone number. Tel. Gina on 359 0096.

BED & BREAKFAST TRAMPING

...My wife and I are starting up a Homestay, bed & breakfast at 227F Upper Plain Road, Kaituna.

As part of this venture we are offering a pick up and delivery service for trampers. Trampers will be able to park their car at our property and we will deliver them to their entry point into the Tararuas, and in turn pick them up at the end of their trip.

Our property is situated on Upper Plain Road, which leads to the Mitre Flats entrance to the Tararuas. (The Pines). We are some 10km from the road end and 8 km from Masterton.

This venture is not confined solely to the Pines Road end. We would also be willing to include Holdsworth Lodge, Miki Miki, Kiriwhakapapa, Putara and Waiohine Gorge.

I have a King Cab Ute with a tandem trailer so am able to accommodate 4 trampers, or if they don't mind a trip in the back of the Ute (covered canopy), up to 6 trampers.

Our parking charges will be \$10.00 for the first night then \$5.00 for any further nights.

Delivery and pickup charges as follows.

Pines	\$15.00 each way
Miki Miki	\$25.00 each way
Kiriwhakapapa	\$30.00 each way
Putara	\$45.00 each way
Waiohine Gorge	\$35.00 each way
Holdsworth Lodge	\$30.00 each way.

Should your members incorporate a stay at the Bed & Breakfast with a day trip, there would be a 20% discount on the pick up and set down charge and parking would be free.

Refreshment can be made available if requested at the end of the trip at the Bed & Breakfast.

We offer this service because I am a keen Trumper myself and, having been a member of the Wellington Tramping & Mountaineering Club and the Police SAR squad for some 10 years, am

aware of the thefts and damage that do occur to cars parked at the road ends... (Abridged).

David BARKER
227F Upper Plain Road
RD8
Kaituna
Masterton.
06 3773807

WEDNESDAY TRAMPING GROUP

We go out every second Wednesday on easy tramps. Come and join us. For more information, please phone Judy 357 0192, Jennifer, 323 3914, or June 355 2690.

THURSDAY TRAMPERS

We go for a tramp every Thursday. If you wish to join us, contact Merv Matthews 357 2858, or Liz Flint 356 7654.

Portal to the Past

June 1968 newsletter:

An extract from a trip report: Tararua Crossing (attempt).

"...The party arrived in Masterton by railcar at 8p.m. Friday and then by hired van to the end of Waingawa Road; tramped to Mitre Flats Hut via Barra Track arriving just after midnight, having crossed river on a 3-wire bridge - great skill needed for this. Saturday made a climb to Mitre, a steep drag all the way; accident happened to leader on Peggy's Peak, cancelling remainder of crossing so party returned to Mitre Flats Hut..." Anon.

TRIP REPORTS

Not Maropea Forks, Waipawa Saddle, Iron Gates Gorge, Lake Dive Hut, Titahi Bay Rock Climbing

Maropea Forks, NOT!! , 6-7 March By Nigel Gregory

The club trip was supposed to be to Maropea forks in the Ruahines but, as the weekend approached, and the weather forecast looked good, and only Janet Wilson & Graham Peters had called me, it was decided that a trip onto the tops of the Tararua's would be more fun.

I had mentioned to Janet and Graham a while back that a trip to see the aircraft wreck on Shingle slip knob interested me, and so since neither of us had been there before, we thought it would be a good trip on a fine weekend.

We left Holdsworth car park on Saturday morning at about 9:30am and headed up the well-graded track to Powell Hut and Holdsworth beyond. The day was beautiful with a cool light breeze and few clouds.

After around two and a half hours, we arrived at Powell and had morning tea. As the break dragged on, and we were ready to leave, I found out that *Janet has a bit of a thing for jigsaw puzzles*, as she was in the hut busily adding pieces to one spread on one of the tables!! And I thought she was in there on official business!!

Our plan was to camp on the tops, and the weather sure looked as if it was going to co-operate.

We skirted around Mt Holdsworth and had an uneventful tramp on to Jumbo, chatting about gear, politics, The Kaweka challenge, tramping and more gear.

After Jumbo, it was on to Angle knob, which is a reasonably short distance from Jumbo. As we traversed Angle knob, it was decided that we would find a campsite for the night and then head off for Shingle slip knob and the wreck in the morning. We found a really good spot to camp just south of a nice tarn about halfway between Angle knob and McGregor. The breeze was from the East and so we set up just off the West side of the ridge.



The 3 of Us

We lazed around in the sun drinking tea and chatting as the sun set. Three trampers heading over Angle knob to Shingle slip provided us with some entertainment into the early evening. They had left it quite late to make what turned out to be a two hour round trip, and we thought they may be using torches if they were from Jumbo hut. It turned out they were a Tramping party from Victoria University and were camping out beside a tarn on the ridge between Jumbo and Angle knob.

On Sunday morning, after a leisurely breakfast, we climbed onto Angle knob and dumped our packs for the trip out to Shingle slip knob and the airplane wreck.

After around an hour we found ourselves at the two gravesites on top of the knob. It was quite a sobering sight, as the wreck is really well-preserved. I could not help but speculate on the final moments of the two aviators that perished that day on Shingle slip knob.

DOC lists the fuselage as an emergency shelter but I think you would need to be very motivated to stay in it for the night.



Looks a Total Wreck

On the way back, we decided to take the "East Holdsworth" track down to the Atiwhakatu River. This track is well-padded and there are Cairns all along it, but Janet & Graham were discussing the possibility of a wrong turn in bad weather as the track makes a turn just above the bush line.

This track is a good way off Holdsworth and would make a fine medium/fit day trip loop. Perhaps next trip card.....

All in all we had a wonderful weekend with great weather considering what we had in February.

Waipawa Saddle, 7th March By Duncan Hedderley

We were Dave Grant, Anja Scholz, Neil Campbell, Liz and Arthur Flint, Amanda Simpson, Fiona Donald and Duncan Hedderley.

With the Gorge road shut, getting to the eastern Ruahines involved going via Pahiatua; but apart from that, Dave laid on a good tramp, with decent weather and impressive scenery. Perhaps the fact that it was the first dry weekend in a while explained the number of other people we met. Not that it was like the Auckland motorway, but during the morning three groups passed us going the other way.

The first hour involved a lot of stream crossing; Dave's jettes meant he had dry feet even if the rest of us squelched up the next hour of gravel beds, which gradually got steeper. Two and half hours in, about 12.30, Fiona decided she would rather admire the scrub, looming scree slopes and bush we had come up through than push on for the head of the valley. Amanda stayed with her, as the ankle she had sprained during the week was

playing up. The rest of us pushed on (Anja like a mountain goat, everyone else with dogged determination) the remaining 40 minutes to the saddle. The view down the valley gave an appreciation of how far we had come. We went out the same way we had come in, and nothing much had changed, except that we were a bit less talkative and Dave wasn't leaping streams.



Waipawa Saddle

Iron Gates Gorge, 7th March By Katrin Daehnel

On Sunday Morning, Warren, Doug, Yuko and me set out for the trip to Iron Gates Gorge. After a lovely 1 hour drive we arrived at the car park and got ready.

The first hour was mainly an easy trek downhill (I only started to wonder what it would feel like to have to trek uphill again). We crossed a few avalanches that showed the impact of the recent rainfalls. At Heritage Lodge we had a short break (I've been taught the proper term for that 10 o'clock break: Smoko). We continued through beech forest, crossed a river once, and finally arrived at the Oroua.

After an early lunch, I received the information, that we would from now on follow the river. Don't get me wrong, I am not complaining, but I haven't done a lot of hiking yet and this was totally unexpected. *So we followed the river from sandbank to sandbank, which were unfortunately always on the other side of the river.* For above mentioned reason, we practiced safe river crossing. Nevertheless, I had a close call once

when the water got too deep and the current too strong. Doug saved me from that involuntary bath.

At the gorge, I got a bit scarred when I saw where we had to get through, but it was real fun. After that, nothing terrible could happen (I thought). But Warren had another surprise for us. When we came across a wire bridge, he figured there must be some kind of track uphill and we could follow it and take this shortcut. I don't know where he saw a track, for me, we just tramped straight uphill. Which wasn't an easy task. Finally, we got to the ridge and only had to hike up the farmlands. Like I dreaded at the beginning of the hike, it was quite a long way uphill.

To make up for this strenuous work, we had an ice-cream on our way back.

Lake Dive Hut, 13/14 March 2004 By Elaine Herve

We were Elaine Herve [trip leader], Mark Bothwell, Anja Scholz, Wara Teeranititankul, Yuko Watanabe, Adrienne Cavanagh and Warren Wheeler.

A late start and the promise of fair weather had an enthusiastic group making its way to Mount Egmont after picking Adrienne up in Wanganui. Our destination was Lake Dive Hut, an 18 bunked hut 3 hours from Dawson Falls. After lunch at the car park, a quick look around the Visitors' Centre, and agreeing to take in a new log book to the hut for DoC, we headed upwards.

It was decided that because the weather was reasonable, we would take the higher Alpine route. The 500 meter climb over 2 1/2 km, with well-filled over night packs, was a rude awakening for this easy grade trip, with a few people suffering wobbly leg's near the top of the stair case that took us past Konini lodge. It was unfortunate that the cloud level was at about the height of the upper track, limiting the views. Wara experienced a painful cramp in his leg that, with careful walking and stretches, gradually came right.

I came to the conclusion this trip was run a couple of weeks late because there was evidence that many Alpine plants had just flowered. Warren as usual did a good job of spotting interesting flora especially the fruit of the bush lawyer. This upper track is in need of some maintenance, and the intention is obviously there as we kept passing ladders on the side of the track. The walk down gave us some good views of the hut and lake.



Brambles Ramble While Trampers Amble



In "Wetsuits" Outside Dive Hut

We arrived at the hut at about 5pm. and quickly settled in. It was disappointing to already find a new log book in the hut! There was only one other person in the hut. A shared dinner accompanied with wine was enjoyed by all. The main entertainment was reading, and *telling jokes of varying quality*. Near sundown we were given good views of Fanthams peak and Egmont, but we were never to get reflections in the lake.

In the morning, we awoke to misty showers that were to come and go all morning. We were away by 8:30 and made steady progress along the lower Lake Dive track. The track climbs in and out of several smallish gorges and at some places views can be seen. We had an early lunch sitting on the top of Hasties Hill, but light rain made it less pleasant. We arrived back at the car park just after midday. We checked out with DoC and re-delivered the log book and the old one as requested.

We headed away with the quiet contentment that comes after another successful trip with good company, scenery and weather, topped off with icecreams or pies.[Sharing the driving was also good so that we could all have an afternoon siesta on the way back!]

Titahi Bay Rock Climbing, 14 March By Lance Gray

Terry Crippen, Pete McGregor, Lance Gray, Malcolm Leary, Doug Strachan & Craig Allerby

This men's collective arrived at Whitireia Park, Titahi Bay around 11am on a Sunday morning to a brisk North-westerly wind but thankfully clear skies. After a brief stumble down to the beach we powered up the testosterone for an attack on such routes as limpet group, plimsole, slab and left wall. Pete and Terry were clearly the experts in our group while the other four: Malcolm, Doug, Craig and myself were mere novices by comparison. Doug distinguished himself early by raising Terry's ire for daring to ask for some minor first-aid on a scratched finger. Unless it was CPR Terry was not going to show any interest here. Terry has clearly taken to the recent TV programme depicting school in the 1950s (were you there by any chance) so there was going to be none of this namby pamby "how do you feel" stuff here.

As has already been revealed, rock climbing seems to reveal much of an individual's personality. As a novice I have been told to take my time which I took a bit literally because on two of the climbs I stood staring at this seemingly impenetrable face for minutes trying to work out how to start the damn thing. This was after *Malcolm had "muscled" his way up with barely a flicker of his eyelid.* Craig's personality was certainly revealed by a "I will hang on for dear life for as long as possible approach." We only knew Craig was having a spot of bother by the twitching or

was it spasms of his leg muscles and the permanently etched grimace on his face. Doug and I played out the "We have office jobs so are not as strong as those farmer and gardener types" so while we may look weak and insipid our superior strategy rather than raw strength will win through eventually – yeah right!

The last climb of the day was fascinating as we watched Pete reconnoitre the route and then set up the top-rope. He made it look so easy. In keeping with the jocular competition we each tested ourselves on this Graeme Dingle grade 17. Astonishingly Malcolm and then Craig reached similar high points before giving in to gravity. Can't be too hard Doug and I thought. After my typically long gaze at the route I did manage to get off the ground but that was it. Doug did not fare much better and our stern schoolmaster kept reminding me of the time I was taking and used that as an excuse not to have a go himself. Needless to say Terry and I exchanged colourful language at this point, though it was 6.40pm. I gave up eventually much to the relief of everyone even though it grated on me that I could get nowhere near Craig and Malcolm's efforts. No doubt Terry has that written down in his notebook for future humiliation. Fish and chips at Paraparaumu was superb as was the day in general. Thanks to Terry and Malcolm for their vehicles even if we did have to crash start Malcolm's on the way home.

"**Blood** /n./ substance commonly used to mark a climbing route."

Excuses to get out of a rock climb:

I'd do it, but this is my old rope and I don't want to take falls on it.

I'd do it, but this is my new rope and I don't want to take falls on it.

Wrong shoes.

It's too early.

It's too late.

Holds are getting too polished.

I'm not used to (sandstone/granite/greywacke etc)



Terry on Belay at Titahi Bay



Doug, Malcolm & Craig at Titahi Bay



"Spiderman" Malc on Left Wall

NOW I KNOW MY ABC

UVA

The so-called tanning spectrum of Ultraviolet light rays. UVA is the light emitted by tanning beds and penetrates much deeper than UVB, even into the muscle.

UVB

The sun's rays which represent the burning spectrum.

UVC

Ultraviolet cosmic rays that do not penetrate the earth's atmosphere.

PVA

A glue for bonding wood, stupid.

An elderly gentlemen went in for his annual physical exam. The doctor said, "You're in incredible shape. How old are you again?" The man replied, "I am 78."

The doctor exclaimed, "Wow, 78. How do you stay so healthy? You look like a 60 year old." The man explained, "Well, my wife and I made a pact when we got married that whenever she got mad she would go into the kitchen and cool off and I would go outside to settle down."

"What does that have to do with it?" asked the doctor. The man sighed, "I've pretty much lived an outdoor life."