



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - April 2007

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.

**12 Apr Japanese Alps
Peter Wiles**

Join Peter for his perspective on tramping in the fascinating country that is Japan. This is not a place you hear a lot about with regards to tramping as all of the attention is usually centered on Mt Fuji.

19 Apr Committee Meeting

**26 Apr NZ Adventures
Terry Crippen**

Adventures - "unusual or exciting experiences" (Concise Oxford Dictionary). NZ offers unlimited scope for tramping and climbing trips, but rather than thinking of these as "just more tramps or climbs", think of them as adventures. Meguru certainly did with all the ones she went on in the short time with us. Come along and get inspired by some of the neat places she enjoyed; including Tongariro and Ruapehu in the north, and Mt Arthur, Arthur's Pass and the Tasman Glacier down south.

Articles to Lance gray.family@actrix.co.nz or post to 48 Savage Crescent, Palmerston North (by 20th of the month).

TRIPS

**31 Mar–5 Apr Pre Easter Kahurangi M/F
Janet Wilson 329-4722**

This trip begins on Sat 31st April when we will catch the ferry to Picton and drive through to the road end. It ends in time for people to join in on Terry's Easter trip to Nelson Lakes. I was intending to plan this trip around those who were coming along, but it will be graded M to M/F and will involve above the bushline and off track travel. Come and visit some of my favourite places. Let me know if you want to come asap.

**Mar 31-1 Apr YTTY Hut E/M
Tim Kannegeiter 353-1965**

Superb overnight trip to a very comfortable hut beside the Otaki River. No difficult climbs and not too much mud! Follows an old tree hauling route into the Tararuas. Contact Tim for further details.

**Apr 1 Sth Ridge Tongariro M/F
Bruce van Brunt 328-4761**

Your opportunity to look at the aftermath of the Lahar from a distance or up close if you can get Bruce to go to the Tangiwai Bridge! As Bruce visits Tongariro National Park so regularly this is your opportunity to learn from an expert. Contact Bruce for further details.

**Apr 5-11 Nelson Lakes M/F, T
Terry Crippen 356-3588**

Five days of tramping and climbing based initially at Cupola Basin, with glorious autumn weather. Four of us so far. If still interested you may be able to get hold of Terry (try also 027 6433637), he is probably down south already on Janet's Pre-Easter trip!

Apr 7 Easter Eggmont M/F
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Please register your interest with Warren for either: 1) a day trip, or 2) an overnight adventure starting at the Manganui Shelter as the starting point. Date is weather dependent so contact Warren if you are interested.

Apr 14-15 Knights-Manawatu E
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

This trip will follow the Knights track over the Ruahine Range and spend the night at Leon Kinvig Hut. From there Warren will lead you to the source of the mighty Manawatu River before the silt; sediment and runoff affect its water quality. Contact Warren for further details.

Apr 15 Powell Hut M
Duncan Hedderley 354-6905

A trip up to the bushline in the Mt Holdsworth area. Students of architecture may care to compare the hut (built around the millennium) with the more recent Roaring Stag and Purity huts. Leave Countdown 7.30 - we've got to get beyond Masterton before even putting boots on.

Apr 21 Purity Hut M
John Feeney 354-2940

Who would have thought of a trip to the cold and "dingy" Purity Hut would be on the trip card! What a difference a new hut can make then to the thought of spending a night on the superb Western Ruahine bushline. Contact John for further details.

Apr 22 Toka Trig M/F
Terry Crippen 56-3588

On the Ngamoko Range in the Western Ruahines, Toka is always is a good choice for a day-trip onto the tops for those excellent views of the ranges and Mt Ruapehu in more glorious autumn wx. Departing Terry time 7am.

25 Apr Anzac Day - Diggers Hut E/M
(MTSC-PNTMC Combined Trip)
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Depart 9.00am from the War Memorial in the Square. From Arbons Rd in the mid-Pohangina Valley it is a gentle uphill slog across farmland to the Ruahine Forest Park

boundary. We then follow the bush track along the wide ridge before dropping steeply to Diggers Hut for lunch beside the Makawakawa Stream. Anyone wanting an Easy Trip would slog their way up again and out the same way. The Medium alternative is a more adventurous rock hop down the picturesque stream. Either way - We Will Remember Them. Contact Warren to find out more.

Apr 28-29 Longview Hut E/M
Peter Wiles 358-6894

Longview Hut as its name suggests gives you a grandstand view of the Southern Hawkes Bay from the Eastern Ruahines. The drive in takes care of most of the climbing and there are plenty of route options to suit the weekend. You won't be disappointed with a weekend up there. Contact Peter for further details.

Apr 29 Kapakapanui M
Anne Lawrence 357-1695

Located directly east of Waikanae this circuit can provide some grand views of the Kapiti region as well as the Tararuas. Always an icecream on the way home so get hold of Anne Lawrence for your space in the car.

Trip participants:

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Countdown 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), Apret Wilson (329-4722) or Tony Gates (357-7439).

Trips

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*

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 Apret Wilson (329 4722)

NOTICES

Trip Card Jul – Dec 2007

Janet would like people to start thinking about the trip-card for July/December as she will be away from May for two months so please get your favourite trip and dates sorted out now.

Massey University Alpine Club (MUAC) Huts 40th Anniversary

MUAC Hut on Mt Ruapehu is now 40 years of age (1967) and celebrations are being held the weekend of 21-22 April. For any ex-MUAC members or others who have had an association with the hut are welcome to attend the weekend happenings. Please phone Rob (027) 419-7901 and register by (April 1st hopefully) so they can gauge the level of numbers attending.

Gordon Kear Forest & access to Burtons Track

Logging operations are taking place in Gordon Kear Forest. Access is still available but take care if heading in via Gordon Kear to Burtons Track.

Tararua Mountain Run Results:

Once again PNTMC punched well above its weight in completing the annual Tararua Mountain Run which is actually the Southern Crossing tramping route. The severity of the run is illustrated by the article below (Scoop.co.nz).

As we go to press the results are still not out but Janet Wilson & Yvette Cottam won the veteran women teams trophy in around 7 hrs 45 min and Lance Gray wearing number 13 placed about 11th in the Open Mens with 6hrs 35 mins. A fantastic day out but we all must spare a thought for Yvonne Gates who had to make an extra trip to Wellington to pick up a certain dehydrated photographer.

“Two Men Rescued During Tararua Mountain Race”

The Wellington based Westpac Rescue Helicopter was called to rescue two men from the Tararua's this afternoon. The 30 year old Wellington man and 47 year old Palmerston North man were both suffering from dehydration.

The helicopter, with a Wellington Free Ambulance Paramedic onboard first picked up the 30 year old from the top of Mt Hector and then the 47 year old from Atkinson Hill, about a kilometre from the first man.

"The organisers did a great job of caring for the men and setting up landing areas for the helicopter" says Dave Greenberg, Westpac Rescue Helicopter Crewman. "Both men were pretty shattered after running up the mountain and their condition meant it was best not to try and walk them down".

The men were both transported to the Wellington Hospital Emergency Department and are both expected to be discharged from hospital later today.

From Ronald De Rose

Dear Club members,

Great to see the new club website and newsletter. It enables all us far flung past members to keep up with events in the club. So a personal thanks for all the efforts of those in putting the web site together. I am now residing in Japan - In Tsukuba City for those familiar with the country. Mio and I have been living here since mid-2006 after leaving from Australia.

As you can guess our weekends involve getting out and about climbing some of the local peaks among other things. No major trips yet, but hoping to organise something in the near future.

For those of you who may be passing through and need a place to bunk down - you are more than welcome to come and stay. We are 1.5 hours by bus from Narita Airport and a 10 minute walk (5 mins for FE members!) from Tsukuba station. Contact details are

Ron De Rose + Mio Kasai,
2-13-1-910-302 Azuma, Tsukuba,
Ibaraki 305-0031, Japan
ph/fax ++81 02 9856 7309
email : pmx00931@mail2.accsnet.ne.jp

So hope to see some of you sometime.
Regards Ron



FMC Executive Visit to Rangī Hut

TRIP REPORTS

Mt Bruce Follies, SAREX, FMC Executive Visit, Holdsworth Explorer, Roaring Stag

Mt Bruce Follies

22 Feb

Trevor King

A fine day in February augered well for what 4 intrepid trampers thought was going to be an easy day out climbing Bruces Hill (710 m), leaving Palmy at 9 a.m. It turned out not so easy, but very enjoyable nonetheless. Leaving about 10.30 am from the carpark on SH2, we followed a well kept and easy lookout (route not taken) track for about 20 mins, before the sign for Bruces Hill pointed the way to our destination.

The hill track, however, was heavily overgrown at this point, and about 15 mins. of mild bush-bashing was required before the track opened up. During a break in a clearing we enjoyed the spectacle provided by a pair

of low-flying kaka, and were accompanied and serenaded by pigeons, fantails and other birds en route.

This was a different tramp from the usual – the track was small and obscure with a heavy cover of leaves (which caused frequent slippage despite being bone dry), and blaze-following was necessary. The heavy pest control program had resulted in a vigorous and interesting native undergrowth which showed the benefits of the intense conservation activities carried out here.

There were many signs and traps indicating trapping lines and bait sites, and it would be easy to get lost here – the leader was glad he only had an small party of experienced trampers! Warren, Richard and Barbara took advantage of Trevor's increasing

photographic 'interludes' and went past Bruce's Hill (an anonymous short detour from the track, marked with a pipe in the ground and surrounded by trees), and down the other side to a lookout and lunch about 30 mins further on.



From here there were sweeping views of the Wairarapa and the Tararuas to the West. Return was straightforward, but tea and drinks at the Mt Bruce Centre were relished by tired trampers. We agreed that this was definitely a medium-grade rather than an easy track, with a few small risk factors for the unwary. Tuatara-watching, and a diversion to view and paddle in the swimming hole on the Mangahao to the west of Pahiatua rounded out a full day, which extended well past the expected 5pm.

SAREX 3rd-4th March **Martin Lawrence**

The PNTMC team of Terry, Craig, Anne and I joined with 7 other teams for 2 hot summery days of searching in the Tararuas behind Levin. This was all quite new for Anne and myself so we were looking forward to learning new skills. New stuff happened immediately at the North Manakau road end as Terry showed us how to carefully check the paths leading off from the car park where the lost party had apparently started their trip. We also had our first experience at using the radio here, where there was very marginal reception, though Tolaga Bay was coming through very clearly!!

We were then tasked with heading up Mt Thomson. We were hopefully looking for

footprints or other human signs, a few were found plus a number of animal tracks which turned out to be a couple of lively looking donkeys. The other place of interest that day was a private hut perched near the bush line with a great view over the Horowhenua. Unfortunately there was no sign of any missing trampers, and no one was in the hut to offer us a cup of tea so our next task was to head back towards the Waikawa River via a different route. This gave us a chance to do some decent bush bashing and to learn that the GPS can cut out fairly easily in thick bush on a steep slope. It was late in the day so Team 1 was quite pleased to reach the river and make a fly camp beside the road.

With a warm night and a full moon it was a great night to sleep under a fly. Sunday looked like it would be another scorcher as we started early and headed up a spur to a ridge leading to Waitewaewae Peak. Unfortunately we followed the radio instructions literally and didn't spot the track, so we started with a couple of difficult hours clambering through supplejack and soon became very warm indeed. After the clamber the route was through very nice bush, which was just as well as the radio was now telling us that the missing group was about to be found by other teams some distance away. As we followed the ridge Terry took the opportunity to get us using both compass and GPS to find our way.

The weekend appeared to be very well organised. I felt that we learned a great deal and had an enjoyable weekend trip as well. The only disappointment in fact was that our team missed on the helicopter ride back to Levin as there was no possible landing place near our position on the ridge.

FMC Executive Visit **10-11 March** **Terry Crippen**

The Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (to which PNTMC and most other such clubs are affiliated to) have some of their executive meetings at different parts of the country so that they can meet some of the local clubs, get an idea of any local issues, while at the same time going through their very full agenda on matters relating to outdoor

recreation and conservation. FMC Executive does all the hard paper work on your behalf. PNTMC had the honour of hosting the executive here recently. Warren did an excellent job of organizing such things as venues and the day trip on Sunday. Thank you Warren.

Saturday was taken up with the exec meeting, but interested parties could go along for a couple of hours in the afternoon to bring up any local or other issues. Some of us from PNTMC and MTSC availed ourselves of the opportunity. Saturday evening saw lots of PNTMCs and some Rangitiki TC bods join the FMC exec at the Fisherman's Table for dinner and socializing.

On Sunday an equally large group headed up to the Rangi road-end for the days excursion. While Barbara and others socialized at the road-end, the rest of us headed up to Rangi hut at different speeds. There was lots of discussion on the way, about the slip, possible alternatives regarding the Rangi Hut move, the Ruahines in general, the state of (un)dress of certain famous peoples and other worldly matters. Rangi hut welcomed us all with an excellent dose of hot fine weather. Lots more discussion took place over lunch. Some hardy souls under the guidance of Craig then headed further up to do the round trip via Deadmans, while the rest of us headed back.

A very enjoyable and successful weekend. If you get a chance to go along to any FMC events including the AGM etc (the next one is in Auckland) I would recommend that you do. (My apologies for not listing names of all the peoples who partook in the activities; there were lots of us as well as most of the FMC executive.)

Holdsworth Explorer – A Sunday Sojourn 18 March Lance Gray

As a trip leader nothing thrills you more than watching the long-range weather forecast on a Wednesday night to find they are predicting 100–120 mm of rain for the Tararua Ranges for that weekend. Surprisingly, my team of four all turned up at the Countdown Carpark full of optimism or was that ignorance?

The predicted rain actually arrived making the normally benign Atiwhakatu look almost violent as I edged the Toyota into the Holdsworth Roadend. A quick loo stop and then off ... to a winery!

Yes, we had whimped out big time and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!! A glimmer of guilt was quickly replaced by one of adventure as we roared into the parched outback of the Wairarapa. As a local I took on the role of tour-guide which I distinguished myself by not actually getting lost. Remarkable!

First stop was the Gladstone winery where Warren had a friend. Well, she had actually departed her employ the previous day! Since daylight saving had ended that night we were rather early – like 9.15am! Kiwi hospitality shone through once more and we were presented with utterly superb coffee. I am not a connoisseur in anything but gee that was bloody good coffee.

We did however have one connoisseur a certain Mr Trevor King and for a day I quite enjoyed listening to wine prattle. As driver and drinker of \$10 bottles I refrained from displaying my tendency to cheapness and kept to the lemonade.

Next stop was a local secret called the “Cliffs” which in my youth was the swimming hole of choice if you had a car. Still a beautiful place though all of the surrounding land has changed from sheep paddocks to vines. We observed the Ruamahunga River in moderate flood as well as observing the remains of a festival that had finished the previous day.

Martinborough after much debate was the next destination with a visit to the third best winery in the area according to Trevor. From memory it was called the Martinborough winery. Lots of tasting and noise came from this visit. At this point I showed some leadership and firmly pressed my charges onward to Lake Ferry or Lake Onoke to watch the Ruamahunga River (in flood) enter Palliser Bay.

Lake Ferry is a fascinating spot because you can see the South Island, the Tararuas and a

fantastic vista of Palliser Bay itself. Also, the fish and chips at the café there are to die for.

Our timing was superb. As we arrived the front that had brought the heavy rain was passing and the sun came out and we had views of the entire area. The fact we could now see Mt Holdsworth assuaged our guilt a little as we were exploring in view of Mt Holdsworth! The outlet to the ocean from Lake Ferry had only been opened.

The river is regularly blocked from reaching the sea by the bank and heavy machinery is regularly used to let out the rising water. Some locals had already run the gap with an inflatable with nearly fatal results going by one observer at the Café. Apparently took them an hour to right their inflatable and get back to the beach. No one seemed in a hurry to help them!

We tramped from the carpark through a kneedeep estuary to get to the beach and then along to the outlet. Always fun to watch the power of nature up close. The eroding channel always had the potential to drag us into the flow so we kept a reasonable distance. A few works of stone art on the beach was followed by a return to the café for lunch.

A late lunch was followed by a Sunday drive around Lake Wairarapa, afternoon tea at my parents just outside of Masterton, and then a pleasant drive home with full stomachs!. A big thanks to Craig, Warren, Barbara and Trevor who aided and abetted our Sunday sojourn!!



Warren watching Lake Onoke empty into Palliser Bay

Roaring Stag 25 March Barbara Maré

The Weekend Warriors were out there again on Sunday. Warren, Anne, Martin and Barbara spent a gorgeous summer day walking to the 'new' Roaring Stag Hut out back of Ekatahuna. (Well it's no longer a very 'new' hut, but some of us hadn't seen it yet.)

For once the track was almost completely unboggy (what no mud?) apart from one spot early on where there had been a mini landslide. It's a bit of a huff up that hill, but an easy coast from the trail fork downhill to the Roaring Stag, where we ate lunch sitting on the verandah overlooking the river. Now we know Warren and rivers...

From there Warren suggested a little side trip to the "hidden lake", which involved boulder-hopping up the river a way and then zipping up a small rise to the right. The river was actually very low so this wasn't too much of a drama.

The rocks weren't very slippery either, although Barbara still managed somehow to fall in. The hidden lake is really worth seeing. It is rather larger than a duck pond and has a small island in the middle and reeds growing at one end, and it's a quiet little oasis among the trees. From there we passed under some beautiful big rimu trees as we cut across on a compass bearing to Ruapae Stream, which we followed upstream until we found a tributary coming in from the left.

Then it was a stiff climb up a very steep ridge to the right, pulling ourselves up through thick undergrowth. A good bit of bush bashing. By some miracle (oh yea of little faith - WW) we managed to meet up with the Roaring Stag track just before the junction with the track to Herupai. Then it was all downhill back to the roadhead, and ice-creams at Ekatahuna Café before driving back to Palmy.

Club Patron	Lawson Pither	357 3033	
President	Warren Wheeler	356 1998	warren.wheeler@horizons.govt.nz
Vice President	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761	B.vanBrunt@massey.ac.nz
Secretary	Dave Grant	357 8269	gaewyn.grant@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer	Alasdair Noble	356 1094	a.d.noble@massey.ac.nz
Webmaster	Peter Wiles	558 6894	p.wiles@wiles.gen.nz
Membership Enquires	Warren Wheeler	356 1998	warren.wheeler@horizons.govt.nz
	Anja Scholz	356 6454	a.scholz@massey.ac.nz
	Mick Leyland	358 3183	Marionandmick@inspire.net.nz
Gear Custodian	Mick Leyland	358 3183	Marionandmick@inspire.net.nz
Newsletter Editor	Lance Gray	356 6454	gray.family@actrix.co.nz
Trip Co-ordinators	Janet Wilson	329 4722	jwilson@inspire.net.nz
	Tony Gates	357 7439	kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz
Aide de-Camp	John Feeney	354 2940	feeneysj@xtra.co.nz
	Martin Lawrence	357 1695	dahlia44@xtra.co.nz