

# Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

## Newsletter - August 2007

### Club Nights

Club nights are held at 7:45pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street. All welcome! Please sign the visitor's book at the door.

#### 9 August Club night

##### Trekking and Climbing in Nepal

Andy Gifford, a Scottish climber now resident in NZ (works in Bivouac) will be giving a presentation on his trips in Nepal; trekking into Everest Base Camp, and climbing Mera Peak (6431m). He plans to bring along some of the clothing and equipment that he used to combat the very cold temperature on the climb. The talk will be of interest to all - both trekkers and climbers alike - so do come along.

#### 14 August (Tues)

##### Snowcraft 3 evening for participants

#### 23 August

##### Committee meeting

Penny Abercrombie's at 19 Hughes Ave.

#### 30 August

##### Club Night: Overseas trekking for Woman

Anne Young

### Upcoming Trips

#### Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trumper should be expected to do the trips in the following times:

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs  
Medium (M): 5-6 hrs  
Fit (F): about 8 hrs  
Fitness Essential (FE): over 8 hrs

Other grades: Technical skills required (T) & Instructional (I)

#### Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Countdown car park. A charge for transport will be collected on the day. Leaders will give an estimate in advance.

#### 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

#### Note to partners, parents or friends of members:

If a club trip is late returning, please do not worry unduly as there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone one of the Overdue Trip Contacts or Trip Coordinators:

Mick Leyland	358-3183	Terry Crippen	356-3588
Janet Wilson	329-4722	Warren Wheeler	356-1998

#### 4 August (Sat)

##### Waiopahu-Gable End

Medium/Fit

##### Doug Strachan

353-6526

A western Tararua tramp, starting near Levin. It takes about an hour to drive to the roadend and get booted up. A long haul (4hrs) up through the bush to Waiopahu Hut, just above the bushline. On to Waiopahu Peak, Twin Peaks, then Richard's Knob, and out down the Gable End Track. Could take about 8.5hrs excluding lunch. A long day at a medium tramp pace. Good for people who normally do a medium but want to try extending themselves a bit.

#### 4-5 August (Training)

##### Snowcraft 2

Medium/Instructional

##### Bruce van Brunt

328-4761

##### Terry Crippen

356-3588

(See notices in July newsletter or visit the club website)

#### 5 August

##### Makairo Track

Easy

##### Fiona Donald

356-1095

This tramp is for families and any others who want a pleasant tramp with only some muddy patches and Ongaonga nettle to contend with.... departure is 8am. The route is along an abandoned road (closed in the 1970s) through bush; often you hear a variety of bird calls and lunch will be at the summit/farmland and looking down the river gorge to fabulous views. We will be going in from the Pahiatua end, behind the Mangatainoka Tui Brewery. It pays to bring extra antihistamine ointment with you if you come into contact with Ongaonga stinging nettle.

#### 11 August (Sat)

##### Wellington "City to Sea"

Easy/Medium

##### Martin Lawrence

357-1695

We'll walk from The Beehive to Island Bay. We'll walk through numerous parks and the town Green

Belt, passing by various points of historical interest. No doubt we will find a decent café in Island Bay.

### 11-12 August

**Te Hekenga Igloo** F, T  
**Derek Sharp** 323-3028

We will leave Friday night and head to Rangiwahia. The plan for Saturday is to kick some snow about en route to Te Hekenga where we will build our icy palaces (igloos). We will head out on Sunday via Howlett's and Midge's sidle track. Expect grand views of snowy Ruahines and some good ice for cramponing.

### 12 August

**Takapari Rd** Medium  
**Janet Wilson** 329-4722

If the snow is low on the Ruahines, then this is probably the easiest way to reach it. Leaving PN at 8am to travel up the Pohangina Valley to Takapari Rd. The road goes up to a gate just on the bush line from where we will walk. How far we go will depend on the conditions - if the snow isn't deep we could go to the A-frame Hut or towards "Takapari".

### 18-19 August

**Kiritaki-Maharahara** Easy/Medium  
**Peter van Essen** 355-9076

This will be a one way crossing of the southern Ruahine (the leatherwood capital of NZ). We will be dropped off at Opawe Road on the west side, climb to Mt Maharahara and Matanginui then drop down the eastern side to Kiritaki hut (6 bunks) for the night. On Sunday we will follow the Raparapawai Stream down to Lovejoy Road or if we feel keen we will cross over to Coppermine Creek and be picked up from the road end. Because of the transport logistics places are limited. Expect some mud, stream wading, and possibly some off track bush navigation for which you will be rewarded with a view (hopefully) and a guided tour of our under-appreciated leatherwood vegetation (no leatherwood bashing required!). Departing PN at 8am.

### 18-19 August

**Snowcraft 3** M, I  
**Terry Crippen** 356-3588  
**Bruce van Brunt** 328-4761

(see notices in July newsletter or visit the club website)

### 19 August

**Burn Hut** Medium  
**Dave Grant** 021-684-050

After braving the steep and winding gravel road leading from Shannon into the Mangahao, this trip gives you the chance to enjoy a fascinating variety of scenery. From the bush clad Mangahao river valley to the tussock and leatherwood tops of the northern Tararuas, with the chance of some great views over the surrounding Manawatu and Pahiatua countryside.

Lunch at Cafe Burn (bring your own). Leaving PN at 8am.

### 25-26 August

**Howletts-Sawtooth Ridge** F, T  
**Tony Gates** 357-7439

This is a classic Ruahine trip, particularly so during winter. Howletts is a cosy alpine hut, and Sawtooth Ridge is a high alpine area with lots of snow and ice. If conditions permit, we can crampon and snow plug along the ridge, and back out Black Ridge and the Tukituki. If not, then we retreat via Longview Hut-whichever way, it's a great place. I aim to depart early Saturday morning. Come prepared.

### Fri 24 August (pm) and Sat 25 August

**Avalanche Awareness Instruction, Ruapehu**  
**Peter Panton** 07-895-7667

For those of us who venture into the hills and mountains in winter, and/or the Alps in summer, an awareness of how to avoid avalanches and how to conduct a search for fellow trampers and climbers caught in an avalanche are essential. The NZ Mountain Safety Council runs a series of evening lectures followed by a full day on the slopes. The dates given above are probably the best suited for club members. For further information, costs (and other dates/venues) contact Peter Panton (07 895-7667) or visit [www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz).

### 26 August

**Manawatu Gorge** Easy  
**Fiona Donald** 356-1095

Depart 8am from the Countdown Supermarket carpark to the Manawatu Gorge. For those who don't know this trip winds its way along the Manawatu Gorge, through bush, on reasonable paths and fairly easy walking with some steep rises to give you a taste of tramping in the outdoors. Fiona is flexible for this trip depending on who puts their names down and it depends on numbers whether we go all the way through or swap keys halfway or just go as far as the second lookout from the Palmerston North end.

*Please note that Peter van Essen's trip 'Botanical tramping 2' has been postponed till next year.*

### 1-2 September

**Climbing, Ruapehu** F, T  
**Terry Crippen** 356-3588

This is your chance to team up with a partner to do some proper snow and perhaps ice climbing on Ruapehu. There is plenty of scope, check out the new NZAC climbing guide. Leaving Friday early evening we will probably stay in either of the NZ Alpine club huts high on the mountain and if people want we could book for an extra night returning Monday evening. This is not an instruction weekend, its a chance to do you own climbing. Places are limited so Terry needs to know well in advance as hut spaces are at a premium this time of the year.

## Notices

### Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to Anne at [dahlia44@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dahlia44@xtra.co.nz) or to 44 Dahlia St, Palmerston North.

### PNTMC Annual Photo Competition

27 July

Judge Udo von Mulert did a great job once again, providing comments and advice, then a short list of his favourite three images from each of a not inconsiderable section. Members then voted. Here are the results. Congratulations to all entrants and also thanks to generous support from our sponsors, Bivouac, FotoFirst and Bruce Watt Photography.



*Pohangina Fungi, by Tony Gates. 2<sup>nd</sup> place-getter in the well-subscribed NZ Natural History digital images section.*

#### • Digital Images

##### Scenic NZ

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 Nguaruahoe    | Martin Lawrence |
| 2 Tunupo        | Martin Lawrence |
| 3 Tunupo Forest | Martin Lawrence |

##### Natural History NZ

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Kahurangi garden | Bruce Van Brunt   |
| 2 Pohangina fungi  | Tony Gates        |
| 3 Rannunculus      | Penny Abercrombie |

##### Topical NZ

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 Sefton Summit | Bruce Van Brunt   |
| 2 Cold Bivvy    | Bruce Van Brunt   |
| 3 In the trough | Penny Abercrombie |

##### Overseas Alpine

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 equal Andean moon    | Tony Gates      |
| 1 equal Hidden Gardens | Bruce Van Brunt |
| 2 Sherman Pass         | Bruce Van Brunt |

##### Overseas People

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1 Patagonia      | Tony Gates    |
| 2 Siberian kiosk | Terry Crippen |

##### Alpine NZ (saved till last, as these were the best)

- |                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 equal White Valley | Terry Crippen                   |
| 1 equal Neve Sunset  | Peter Wiles                     |
| 1 equal Welcome Pass | Bruce Van Brunt (overall best). |

#### • Prints

##### Scenic NZ

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1 Long Harry Long Drop | Chris Tuffley  |
| 2 Rangi Saddle         | Warren Wheeler |
| 3 Resolution Bay       | Warren Wheeler |

##### Natural History NZ

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1 Lake Ferry stones | Warren Wheeler |
| 2 Leatherwood       | Warren Wheeler |
| 3 Leatherwood       | Janet Mason    |

##### Topical NZ

- |                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 Where's your cap?            | Warren Wheeler |
| 2 Tasman Saddle Hut            | Terry Crippen  |
| 3 Pushing through pepper trees | Warren Wheeler |

##### Overseas Alpine

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Slogen Rest, Norway   | Warren Wheeler   |
| 2 Molladalen, Norway    | Kristina Mattson |
| 3 Desolation Wilderness | Chris Tuffley    |

##### Overseas People

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1 Silhouette | Chris Tuffley |
| 2 Snowman    | Chris Tuffley |
| 3 Dancing    | Chris Tuffley |

##### Alpine NZ

- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1 Mueller Hut longdrop | Chris Tuffley |
| 2 Heading back down    | Terry Crippen |

### FMC Safety in the Mountain booklet

Enclosed with this newsletter is a FMC Safety in the Mountain booklet. One of these has been purchased for each PNTMC member. The booklet has some really useful information on what to do in tricky situations. The suggestion is that members read it and take it on every tramping trip – perhaps put it in your first aid kit so that you always have it with you.

### Notice from DOC – Walls Whare

The new Walls Whare suspension bridge has been completed and is open for use.

### Karori Sanctuary news

The Karori Sanctuary has got a special offer on Night Tours for all of August. Book one full-priced Sanctuary by Night tour and get another one absolutely FREE! This is a great time of year to hear and hopefully see little spotted kiwi - there are around 100 living in the Sanctuary! Places are strictly limited and phone booking is essential. Full tour price \$45/\$20 kids. Phone for more details: 04-920-9213.

## News about PNTMC folk

### Welcome to new members

A warm welcome is extended to new club member,  
Anthony Eyles 355-3150

### Farewell to Barbara

Barbara Mare has just moved to Wellington, so will no longer be able to come on walks with PNTMC. She wanted to pass on her best wishes, and thanks to everyone at PNTMC for some great walks! She will be joining the Wellington TMC.

### News from further afield

Graham and Hilda Heap were PNTMC members about 4 ½ years ago. They are now back in England. They sent this note:

Hello Every Body

Now you know why I have not been in touch recently. I have been putting together this fantastic web site and doing it very slowly. Go at once to [www.poohsticksbridges.com](http://www.poohsticksbridges.com) and add it to your favourites. Much more importantly add a bridge. And we have been walking a walk and hope to get it published eventually.

The walk is about 265 miles long and follows the line of the Greenwich Meridian. We have walked out 70 miles so far, Peacehaven to Greenwich, and we are working on producing the guide book, which is very slow work. At Easter we are going to carry on into Epping Forest and up the Lee Valley, eventually ending up at Cambridge, which is the half way mark. From Cambridge we will carry on up to Boston, then Louth and cross the Humber, somehow, at Cleethorpes. Then there is a short bit of the meridian north of Spurn Head.

News from you please and any Pooh Sticks Bridges gratefully received.

*Hilda and Graham*

## Trip Reports

### Mangahao Rescue

13 May

Brief report by Terry Crippen

On the Sunday of the club overnight trip to Mangahao Flats 12-13 May, while heading out along the sidle track one of the party slipped down the very steep slope below the track and suffered injuries. The alarm was raised by people heading out to the road and phoning the police. A successful rescue was later undertaken by helicopter. All concerned helped to produce a successful rescue and outcome. The party member was not seriously injured but suffered a

strained ankle, a bruised back, a bump to her head and numerous cuts and scratches.

As normal with such an accident the club committee looks at what happened and also what we can learn from the event for future trips. The trip leader, the other club member on the trip, and the overdue trip contact involved, all gave written reports to the Club committee. There was also further input from these persons.

From the report and the various inputs, we were reminded of some key points regarding handling incidents and accidents on Club trips. These include:

- At the road end immediately prior to the trip starting, the leader should brief the party as to what emergency gear the party has, who is competent in 1<sup>st</sup> aid, and who has what where (including perhaps "Safety in the Mountains", party & contact information). It may be the leader who has the accident.
- The leader has the management and safety of the whole group as his role; the person most competent in first aid, which may not be the leader, should assess the injured person(s); and full details of the situation should be gathered.
- If necessary provided there are enough party members, two competent persons should be set out to raise the alarm, by contacting the police (via the 111 system or directly) if no suitable means of communication is at hand. It is essential that they take out in writing full details of the situation. NOTE: the FMC "Safety in the Mountains" booklet has a pullout section for use. Also important is to have the Club overdue trip contact phone numbers available so that they can be contacted and informed of the situation as well.
- The rest of the party should stay available to give help as required, for example to direct SAR personal to the site, to help move any injured persons to a more suitable place for helicopter evacuation. The party should be prepared to spend the night out if necessary.
- Various forms of communication such as cell phones, mountain radios and PLB/EPIRPs can certainly speed up getting outside help, but need not be carried on all trips. For example on this Mangahao Flats trip which was an overnight medium grade tramp with 5 persons (with some having good or very good tramping experience and ability) in an area close to civilisation such an item would not be coincided essential. On the other hand on a 10 day trip into a remote area of the Southern Alps, involving two or more days walk out (in good conditions), a mountain radio or PLB/EPIRP could or should be considered essential, especially if a small party.

As for any accident, we can all learn, or be reminded of, the best practice to facilitate a successful outcome. It is timely that the new edition of the FMC's 'Safety in the Mountain' is being sent out to members with this newsletter, although it needs to be stated that it is not as a result of the Mangahao rescue that it is being sent out. The committee had decided to do this following on from the Leaders evening we had a couple of weeks before this accident took place. Traditionally the Club's practice was to give a copy to "Safety in the Mountains" to new members when they joined, but that practice had faded away a few years ago.

## **Cobblestones, carrot cake and Christmas cheer**

**23-24 June**

**Report by Chris Tuffley**

Friday night saw Anja, Monica, Warren and I heading north into uncertain weather, determined to celebrate Midwinter come rain, snow or sun. Dinner at the Gumboot Manor---where the Super Burger lived up to its name, and the veggie burger wasn't half bad either--sustained us, and before we knew it we were settling in to the Patron's lodge at Rangataua. In short order the lodge was festive with red balloons, and presents lay beneath the tiny Samx tree.

A stop by the Ohakune visitors' centre the next morning gave us plenty of ideas for how to spend a grey and damp Saturday, and then we headed up the mountain road for a look-see. Alas, a few spots of sleet on the windscreen was as close as we were to get to the snow all weekend...the road was closed at the 9km mark, and we all agreed it was a bit miserable for a walk to Blyth Hut. Back down the road we went, and then for a damp but pleasant turn around the Mangawhero forest walk---which seemed to be a popular destination for the day!

Lunch eaten in the shelter of the DOC visitor centre porch---blink and you missed the occasional patch of sun---we headed for Raetihi, stopping by the Ohakune lakes on the way. Empty shop windows along much of the main street spoke of busier times, but the Angel Lousie cafe was bustling, and its coffee received high praise from the coffee drinkers among us. Drinks drunk, carrot cake consumed, but puzzle posed by the friendly volunteer at the information centre (find an anagram of GIFTHORSE beginning with F) yet unsolved, it was back to Ohakune for our midwinter dip. No cold lake or mountain stream awaited us, however! Handing over \$7 each three of us slipped into the warm waters of the Powderhorn pool, which for a time we had all to ourselves.

The lights were on back at the lodge, and Sue, Lawson and a warm fire welcomed us home. An unusual Christmas dinner of pizza and burritos

followed, preceded by fruit salad and icecream, for those in the true Samx spirit, or soup, for those of a more traditional bent. Dessert, however, hewed to tradition: Groglog (courtesy of Warren), Christmas pudding (Ernest Adams), icecream (Tiptop), and overindulgence (almost all present). Stuffed, we sat down to greet the Samx fairy (Warren, putting us all to shame in his white jacket, red shirt and emerald tie) and open presents. Four small yo-yos and a grippy hand---all the more challenging to use for its lack of an opposable thumb---went a long way towards keeping us amused for the rest of the evening.

Another grey day greeted us the next morning, and we opted for another low elevation walk. Sue and Lawson guided us on a loop that took in part of the Old Coach Road, a cobbled road that once bridged a gap in the Main Trunk Railway Line. Marvelling at the scoria cobbles peeking through the grass we looked forward to the day the Old Coach Road Walkway is complete, and the road once more joins Ohakune and Horopito. Then it was back to the lodge for lunch, before the four of us set off once more, taking in the Tangiwai memorial on the way home and leaving Sue and Lawson to enjoy another day by the mountain.

*We were Monica Cantwell, Anja Scholz, Chris Tuffley and Warren Wheeler, joined by Sue and Lawson Pither.*

## **SAR "Round Robin"**

**24 June**

**Report by Martin Lawrence**

Myself and Richard Lockett turned up at Manfield for this day's worth of exercise, along with many others from Levin, Palmy and Wanganui. We covered a wide variety of topics, including radio usage, compass navigation, GPS usage (the newer units are very impressive) and rope work. After lunch the Westpac Rescue helicopter turned up to give us a chance for some enter and leave the chopper safely. The pilot hovered in extremely blustery conditions as we climbed on groups of three, buckled up, then exited when signalled by the crew member. I found the day very useful and interesting and would certainly recommend it to others.

## **Burton's Track**

**7 July**

**Report by Lance Gray**

Given the publicity surrounding Burtons Track and the fact it forms part of the Te Araroa Trail, I was looking forward to this outing. As usual we tried to make it as interesting as possible. The drive up Scotts Road from just south of Linton seemed to go on forever and given the recent rain Anja was convinced that 4WD was probably needed up ahead. The

problem being we didn't have 4WD. Under instructions from the leadership we blazed forth, past the vandalised sign indicating the start of the track, to find the other end of Scotts Road where it meets Kahuterawa Rd. Once again, we had gotten lost just getting to the road-end. Luckily Malcolm, Warren and Chris hadn't made the same error and were waiting patiently at the bridge for us on our return.

The walk up the 4WD track through pine forests was very pleasant and for me, personally, more enjoyable than Burttons track itself. This may be heresy but the 4WD was nice and wide and you could chat away to someone walking next to you. Once in the bush it was very slippery and steep. Given the grading for the walk of medium/easy we walked as far as the first stream before deciding against getting our feet wet. Warren as usual was looking at every opportunity to turn this into fitness-essential but the stream he explored with Chris proved even beyond his talent for finding adventure. Highlight of the trip was snoozing in the brilliant sunlight at the official start of the track. We had good views over to the snow-capped Ruahines and over to the coast. Certainly, a different perspective to view the Manawatu from. I will refrain from passing judgement of Burttons Track until I have actually walked it in its entirety. A good day out, and I learned the key fact that Malcolm Parker has some hidden talents aside from being a tax inspector.

*We were Anja Scholz, Warren Wheeler, Chris, Duncan Hedderley, Malcolm Parker and Lance Gray.*

## Longview

7-8 July

Report and photos by Peter Wiles

Tina asked, what do I need to bring? This is my first time! I hurriedly tried to go through the process of getting all my gear together for a weekend trip. Knowing that it was going to be cold and the hut would be well into the snow I immediately thought of heaps of warm clothing, indeed a change of clothes would highly desirable as I could not recall whether the hut had heating (being my first time to stay there). Then I went over the food issues, then gear. All sorted I hoped. Then Anthony called wanting to go and sounding really keen.

The forecast was something else – snow down to below 600m on Friday night and a slow improvement on Saturday. But Sunday promised fine weather. But would we be able to get up to the end of Kashmir Road? The two really steep sections could be showstoppers if snow covered. I pondered alternative venues – Sunrise would be okay, but did that last time the weather for Longview was unsatisfactory. Alternatively a long walk up Kashmir Road from where the old gate used to be – done that before, so could it again?



In the event Saturday morning came and we left at 8.30 am. Road no drama - and the snow started at the car park but the temperature was 2°C and the odd snowflake was falling. Conditions were good for the climb up to the hut, except for the last 20 minutes when we were in the mist and there was a snow shower.

The hut was empty and the plumbing was well frozen, so after some digging and scraping with the ice axe we managed to ladle water from the top of the tank. We gave up trying to operate the hut's gas cooker (used our own), but had more success with the gas heater. For the rest of the afternoon, Anthony went for a walk south towards Rocky Knob and beyond, while Tina and I stayed put in the hut.

After a cozy night, Sunday brought exactly the weather as forecast – fine clear calm conditions. Very cold outside.



After a quick breakfast, Anthony and I headed out for a trip up to Otumore. The snow was knee deep on the flatter ground amongst the grass and scrub and waist deep up the initial part of the climb. (Anthony mentioned that he was going to do Snowcraft this year, so this was a good introduction.) Once we were passed the first steepish section, travel improved markedly and we arrived at the ridge-top in splendid conditions. Surprisingly the snow was powdery all the way up despite high winds in the previous few days. It was also perfectly calm. We could see from

coast to coast and far to the north and south – snow everywhere. Meanwhile, Tina tidied up the hut and took advantage of the sun beaming into the hut.

The return to the hut was rapid. We had an early lunch and just before 12 pm headed off along the ridge to the north before reaching the bush and the Daphne-Kashmir Road track. The bush was totally plastered with snow still, but dripping like a shower.



We reached the road at the bottom about 3 pm and after retrieving the car returned to Palmy having made the most of another winter weekend.

*We were Tina Bishop, Anthony Eyles and Peter Wiles.*

## Roaring Stag Lodge

21 - 22 July

Report by Tina Bishop

A change of trip leader meant the trip could still go ahead because Murray had work commitments. We started off tramping at the late time of 11am. It was easy walking and I was quite excited about the swing bridges, having never crossed one before. The bush and scenery was stunning and the song of tuis could be heard; we even tried a couple of Miro berries - the taste we decided was a cross between mango and turps. The slog up-hill for one who was only on their second overnighter with a big pack was very trying, but helpfully coaxed along by one with years of experience. The track was very boggy. We lunched at the Roaring Stag / Herepai turnoff.

Not far from the hut it was decided that we would detour and go to the hidden lake, so with all faith in Warren's compass skills, we headed off and found it in the time he said it would take. I admit it was worth the trip. With that out of the way, we continued to the hut and got there about 4 pm. Two nice young guys had the fire roaring - a very nice hut. We met Mr or Mrs Possum on the deck and after retiring to bed very early listened to the two guys rushing out and trying to kill the possum with their machete - that was in between their card game on the top bunks.

Breakfast and then off at 9 am. There was talk of going to Herepai hut for a look on the way out but someone was quite sore after yesterdays tramp. In the end we decided that we would go up there after all, someone moaned all the way up the hill and wished she was back at the car, plus it was freezing. We met some people coming down and then settled in the hut for lunch where we had a surprise visitor join us - Murray had guessed we might be up there, so after a chat and lunch he went ahead to Roaring Stag and we continued on down.

Refuelled and with my second wind, the trip down was quite pleasant alternating from being snowing and sunny and learning about the bog song. Walked out to a beautiful sunny day, all was well until someone disturbed the huge whitetail spider living by my tail light and it ran into my car instead of outside! A strong coffee and cake at Balance was great.

*We were Tina Bishop and Warren Wheeler.*

## Snowcraft 1

20 -22 July

Report and photos by Matt Penn

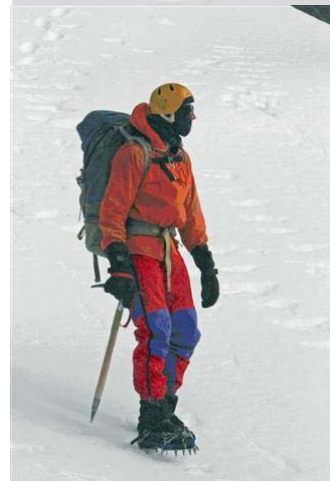
A select group of 7 intrepid classmates set off for the likely-to-be-weather-socked-in Mount Ruapehu on Friday night.

The usual departure from Countdown saw us in Taihape at 7pm picking up our 7<sup>th</sup> and possibly bravest class-mate (she does live in Taihape!)

We arrived in two vehicles at the shelter on Bruce Road and donned all our gear to carry to the hut, eventually arriving in the dark at about 10pm. We immediately doubled the numbers in the hut, which included a couple with a wee baby – who was fortunately very well behaved at night time!

The forecasts for the week had been varied – and worsening! With a hearty breakfast we were then pleasantly surprised when we got out on Saturday to find the weather great for skiers; which meant that we were all warm and traipsing around in snow.

Day One saw us getting to grips with working in the snow, and also our first introduction to self-arrests! Plenty of excitement, and lots of chances to test just how far snow will



get inside your gear (Nela can be seen testing out) also gave us a good chance to see just how fast we could get moving down the slope.

By this time we had gotten over all the gear that had been forgotten, or carried out to the trucks and pieces of it lost, to tune in to our instructors, who didn't spend all their time leaning up against the wall...It seemed in no time we'd gone through edging, self arrests, lunch and were donning crampons now that we were comfortable using our ice axes.



This proved to be one of the highlights of the day and we happily trekked around for some time before heading back to the lodge for our evening duties. I should point out that the comparison between a 'skiers hut' and a 'back country hut' is strictly not possible. The Manawatu hut had electricity. Running water, showers, drying rooms, bunk rooms, heating, flushing toilets, electric and microwave ovens and a stereo system. This was the way to learn!

The roast dinner (from the chest freezer!) went down a treat and the special ingredient in the chocolate self saucing pudding (made for 30) was quite popular, and even made it on the menu for breakfast for some.

We had a debrief that night, and got our first use of avalanche transceivers for Sunday. Saturday night saw the weather closing in, and the snow and frost come down, for us to wake to Sunday with a nice layer of ice for us to walk on. We set off with crampons on and made good use of them on the trek up the mountain. The weather had closed in quite a

lot, and we now had a lovely breeze! Fortunately with our crampons on right from the outset we had something to anchor us to the ground to save us from being blown away....



An impromptu avalanche scenario expertly put on by survivor Mr Lynch saw us trying to organise a search and use our avalanche transceivers to placate our ever more panicking avalanche survivor! We did eventually find both souls in 15 minutes – not bad for our first time.

This must have looked pretty entertaining from above, and had there been any skiers on the chair lift overhead they would have been in for a treat! Seven coloured blobs running around chattering in three languages trying to find a little beeping box and missing equipment!

But, this did mean that we'd had a busy day by the time we made it back to the hut for our next chores – and some just couldn't hold out for the debrief and took the chance to grab a power nap...



Some great tuition and a thoroughly enjoyed weekend – a hearty thanks from all of us students.

*We were Andrew Lynch and Alistair Noble (Instructors) with Selena Edlington, Anthony Eyles, Shintaro (Shin) Fukuhara, Nela Kordich, Matthew Penn, Yuki Sakai, and Tadatsugi Yakota,*



## Recipe for pre-Christmas Tramping

From Doug Strachan comes this trip report from the March 1974 newsletter:

### *Ingredients:*

6 fresh P.N.T.M.C. trampers.  
6 pair leathery boots  
6 packs  
1 well beaten road  
1 Mangahao River  
1 Harris Creek Flat  
1 Avalanche Flat  
2 swing bridges  
2056720 gals. chilled water  
1 heaped riverbed of medium sized boulders  
At least 1 smile to every person.

Method: At 7:30 a.m. pick trampers from an assortment of gardens and shake well over winding road. Pack up and place on track. Cream trampers with mud and add one at the time to Mangahao River. Leave to soak till lunchtime, walking constantly. Before lunch add water to chest level but firstly remove 2 trampers to scramble up sidle track. Do not put in small hut; instead lie out on grassy flats to dry. Add teaspoons of lunch and then hot tea brewed by Lower Hutt trampers.

Remove one of the trampers because of bad knee which would ruin flavour. Stir trampers into river once again but this time more slowly. Increase temperature slightly and raise clouds. Leave walking and grate one knee.

At about 4.30 add spirits at sight of hut and then proceed to peel off wet clothes and drain. Add wet sock essence. Overnight prepare filling of hot stew and add to trampers if desired. Leave all ingredients to warm by fire and then place in separate sleeping bags. Do not let trampers raise the roof of hut with cheerful song.

Next morning roll trampers slowly out of sleeping bags and garnish with breakfast. To cooler water add trampers once more. Soon sprinkle with rain and later increase the rain to a steady downpour. Toss one trumper frequently in the river and slowly chill all members and completely immerse in water. Later thaw in hut with addition of warm clothes and once more add teaspoons of lunch.

Use self-raising river to make trampers detour to sidle track. Try not to lose trampers on track as through experience we know that this delays baking time. Put trampers on swing bridge but firstly make sure that the river has risen at least 2 feet and fills the basin completely. Remove trampers from river basin and place in well-greased motorcars. Now well browned remove to bath tub.

Excellent recipe for 6; the recipe could be doubled if necessary.

## Tararua Wanderings

By the Meandering Minstrel, Tom Luff  
May 2007

Martin Luther Scoullar  
spoke boldly to his team  
With eloquence he told them that  
..... "I have a dream"  
To roam the Tararuas  
on an endless quest  
We'll search from bush to mountain top  
There will be no rest.

We'll tramp the Waiotaru  
to a ridge that's named Tregear,  
Even though the map says  
"there's no bloody ladder here"  
We'll move on to Waiotaru Hut  
further up the track,  
By the time we've come this far  
there is no turning back.

We'll visit Elder Bivvy  
This hut's a little beauty,  
With room for four, and a balcony,  
a real little cutie  
Then onwards up to Aston,  
the Dress Circle and so on,  
We'll earn our lunch at midday  
on the flanks of Atkinson.

Ever upwards on to Mt Hector  
where the mountain gods do play,  
Listen to the wind to hear  
what they have to say  
Their voice booms down the valleys  
down to Scoullar's team,  
**"You'll never find the ladder  
it's just a bloody dream"**

*Reproduced with kind permission from The Wanganui Tramping Club. Thanks to Tony for obtaining this.*

## Recipes for tramping and eating

If you have some favourite tramping ideas or recipes you are prepared to share, please send (handwritten or photocopied is fine) to Anne at [dahlia44@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dahlia44@xtra.co.nz) or to 44 Dahlia St, Palmerston North.

### Tararua Biscuits

Here is another version of the recipe for these famous delights, along with another version of their derivation:

Tararua biscuits, steeped in tradition, (nothing else would soak into them), are not haute cuisine and not for the feeble-jawed. They were developed by an unknown trumper many years ago, specifically to survive the rigours of being stashed in a Christmas trip pack for two weeks alongside crampons, billies & primuses. They will generally survive well any attempted attack by 'possums, rats or other vermin. Seriously though, they are a useful item on which to base a tramping trip lunch. Spread with whatever takes your fancy. Stories of people having to use ice axes to break them should be ignored and only testify to the lack of judgement on the part of some would-be chefs. Don't overcook them!

#### **Ingredients:**

500g butter  
400g sugar  
1 large tsp salt  
2 heaped tbsps treacle or golden syrup  
600g plain flour  
1kg whole meal flour (coarse)

#### **Method:**

Soften the butter and mix ingredients in a large bowl, adding a little water if necessary. Roll out to 1cm thickness, cut into square biscuits and place on a lightly greased baking tray. Bake at 135°C until cooked (dry and just starting to turn golden brown).

### Bread making

By Susan Guscott

*Reproduced with kind permission from Susan and The Tararua Tramping Club.*

While on the Bibbulmun Track, we made bread every day except town days (approx 50 loaves), so we learnt a bit about what worked best.

#### **What you need**

We used one stainless steel pot, one rack (the bottom of a chip frying basket), a small stuff sack with well-floured handkerchief inside (for rising), a disposable glove (keeps dough out of fingernails), and a 1-liter plastic measuring jug. We had pre-measured 200g bags of breadmix (make your own or purchase at the supermarket) and some yeast.

**To avoid burning, your stove must have a really low setting.**

#### **Preparing the dough:**

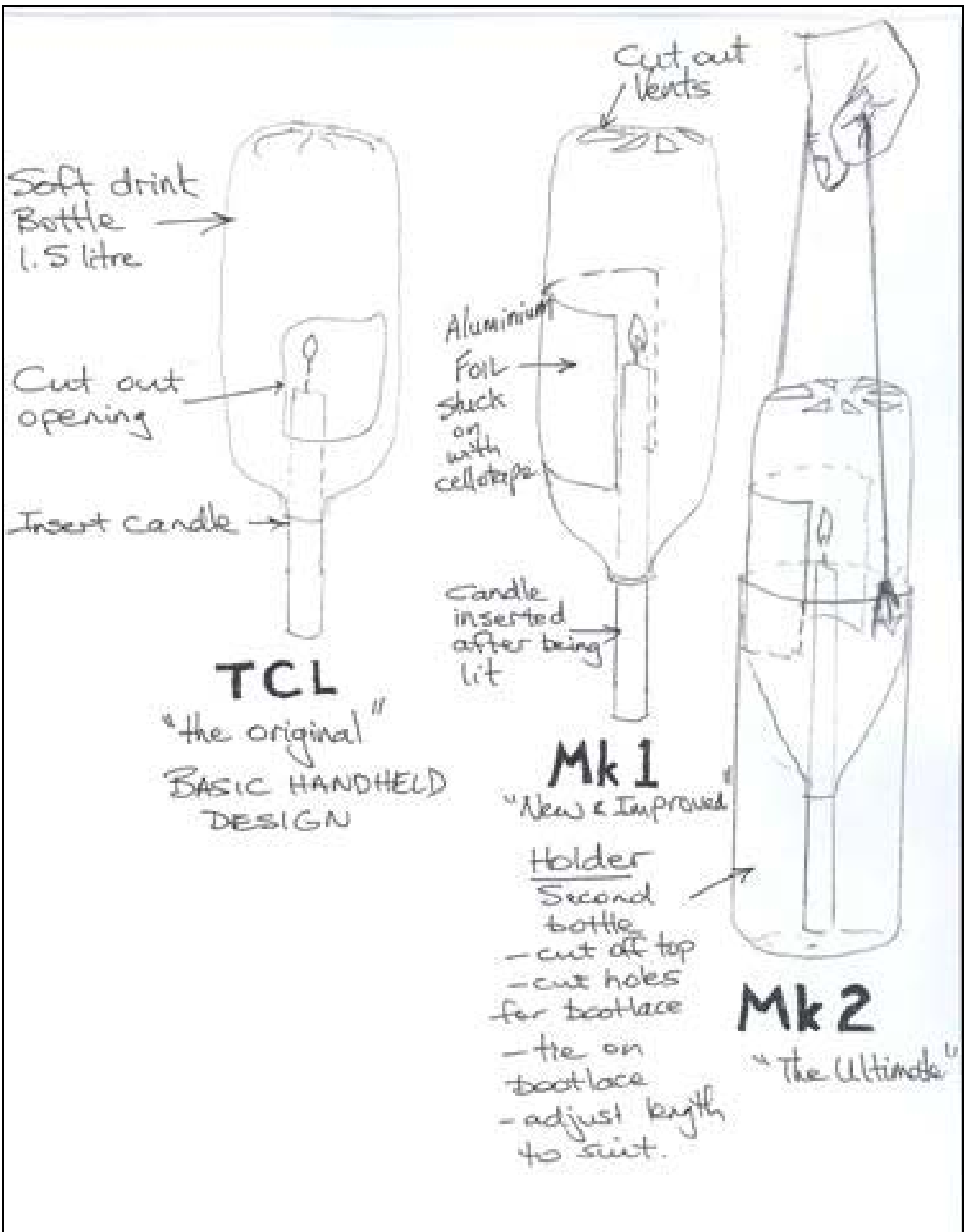
Put a little breadmix into the handkerchief (prevents sticking while rising) and the rest into the jug with 1 tsp of yeast and enough warm water to make a dough. Knead in the jug until elastic then wrap loosely in the floured handkerchief. Put in stuff sac then under somebody's shirt (next to the body!). Keep in your sleeping bag at night (yes it got flattened more than once, but at least it was warm!). Re-knead the next morning, re-wrap loosely in the handkerchief and put back in the stuff sac. Put on the rack inside the pot ready for carrying. Warm it up on a very slow stove before leaving camp. Carry the dough in the pot until lunch time.

#### **Cooking the bread:**

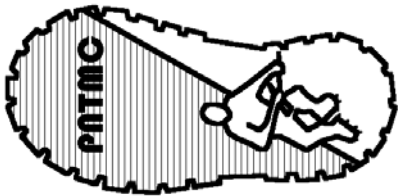
Unwrap, trying to avoid collapsing the dough, place on the rack in the pot and cook over a very slow flame for 25 minutes or until it sounds hollow when tapped. Fight off the competition and enjoy!

### The original TCL... and two modifications Diagrams by Warren Wheeler

The PNTMC July newsletter contained instructions from Terry Crippen on how to make an emergency light, christened a TCL. The following diagrams are of the original TCL and two subsequent modifications.



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## PNTMC Newsletter August 2007

### *What's Inside:*

- Upcoming trips and other club events
- Reports on recent trips
- Results of the recent PNTMC photo competition
- A trumper's guide to bread making
- The original TCL, and two variations

Get out and about with us!  
[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

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