

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter July 2014



Morning tea stop on Mt Kaukau, Wellington Skyline Walk

[Warren Wheeler]

Club Nights

All are welcome to our club nights. These are held at 7:45pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

10 July

Himalayan Expedition Part 1 - Mera Peak

Malcolm Leary

Want to do more than just trekking in Nepal? How about a five week trip with World Expeditions to climb both Mera Peak (6476m) and Island Peak (6189m)? How about getting three other club members and a friend from MTSC to come along as well. Excellent – what could possibly go wrong? Come along and find out in this first part of a two part epic.

31 July

Himalayan Expedition Part 2 – Island Peak via Amphulapsa Pass Janet Wilson

The adventure continues after the successful ascent of Mera Peak. Will illness, injury and personal conflict make or break this once-in-a-lifetime experience?

Upcoming Trips

5 July

Roaring Stag **M**
Kathy Corner **356-8186**

Roaring Stag is a relatively new hut in the Eastern Ruahines. It is about a 3 hour tramp to the hut through lovely bush. Leaving from Milverton Park at 7.30am.

5-6 July

Three Bottles/Herepai Hut **E/M**
Warren Wheeler **356-1998**

Depart 8.00am. This is an easy hut to bag in the Tararuas, with the old Bottles Track adding some adventure if river levels allow. A short climb up above the bush line gives great views from Herepai peak.

10 July

Snowcraft applications close

See notices.

12-13 July

Mangahao Flats Hut **M**
Graham Peters **329-4722**

One of the few huts in the Tararuas I haven't been to so quite keen to knock it off. From the Mangahao dam quite a long but flattish walk up the Mangahao valley. Depart PN 8.00amish.

12 July (Sat)

Manawatu Gorge Walk **E**
Duncan Hedderly **354 6905**

9am start for a pleasant local trip, in case the weather isn't suitable for something more adventurous, or you just want to blow the cobwebs out.

16 July

Snowcraft evening 1 **Training**
Bruce van Brunt **328-4761**

Snowcraft1 evening for participants only.

20 July

Awatere/Longview Loop **M**
Dave Grant **328 7788**

This trip in to the eastern Ruahines starts from the end of Kashmir Road. Heading south to Awatere Hut on the north branch of the Makaretu we will climb up through the bush to Rocky Knob. Then it's north along the open tops past Longview Hut back down to the road end. A great variety of scenery and flora. Leave Milverton at 7.30am.

19 or 20 July

Snowcraft 1 **Training/Technical**
Bruce van Brunt **328-4761**

See notices.

26-27 July

Cow Creek Hut **M**
Woody Lee **357-2390**

Depart 8.30am for a weekend trip in the eastern Tararuas. This cosy Waingawa riverside hut is in from Kiriwhakapapa roadend. We will visit the Blue Range Hut the next day for extra hut bagging and have a lovely afternoon tea at Mount Bruce café on the way home.

27 July

Herepai Hut **M**
Malcolm Parker **357-5203**

A trip into the Tararuas and the opportunity to grab some more points in the hut challenge. We'll leave from the Putara roadend, in behind Eketahuna, and wander in along the sidle track before crossing the big swing bridge and climbing up to the turnoff. If the weather is kind we can go for a wander up past the hut. Depart P Nth at 8.00 am.

30 July

Snowcraft evening 2 **Training**
Bruce van Brunt **328-4761**

Evening for participants only.

3 August

A-Frame/Stanfield **M**
Nicola Wallace **356-4516**

Plenty of variety on this Ruahine trip up to A-Frame Hut, along the Takapari Road 4WD ridge track (might be snowy) and down to Stanfield Hut. The trip back is either via the gravel bed of the Tamaki River or Holmes Ridge to avoid getting cold wet feet..

2 or 3 August

Snowcraft 2 **Training/Technical**
Bruce van Brunt **328-4761**

See notices.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trumper should expect 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 (T)
 Instructional (I)

Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Milverton Park. A charge for transport will be collected on the day.

Gear for trips

Minimum gear for day trips is appropriate footwear, pack, lunch and snacks, waterproof jacket, overtrousers, gloves, warm hat, torch, toilet paper, matches or a lighter, sunblock, first aid kit, and a survival bag or space blanket. Each person needs to be equipped to survive overnight.

Personal Locator Beacons – Free for trips

The club has purchased two PLBs for members' use. If you want to take one of these on a trip, contact Martin or Anne Lawrence on 357-1695. Note that this applies to any trip you are going on - it doesn't need to be a club trip.

Trip leaders

Complete the trip intentions form and leave with one of Overdue Trip Contacts or drop into 44 Dahlia St or email to pntmctrips@gmail.com with the date and trip name in the subject line. If you are unable to run your trip as scheduled, advise a trip coordinator as soon as possible so that alternatives can be arranged.

Overdue Trips

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:

Janet Wilson 329-4722
Martin and Anne Lawrence 357-1695

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Warren Wheeler, the acting newsletter editor, direct or via our web site <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>

Notices

PNTMC 50th Anniversary 2015

As the club's 50th anniversary will be at the end of next year, we are looking at ways to celebrate this, and also the possibility of publishing a short history of the club based on the archives and people's stories. If you are interested in assisting with this then please contact the club President Dave Grant who is heading the organising sub-committee.

New Newsletter Editor

Our editor Thomas Robertson will be going overseas in July so please send your articles to Warren Wheeler, who has taken on the role.

SNOWCRAFT 2014



Whakapapa Climbing – join Snowcraft and put yourself in the picture!

Winter is nearly here and PNTMC's Snowcraft Programme starts in July.

It has two aims, to equip people with the necessary skills for safe tramping in snow and to pass on the fundamental skills of mountaineering.

It will be running as day trips to Mt Ruapehu with an evening session mid-week prior to each day trip.

16 July Wed evening	SC1 Intro and briefing
19 or 20 July	SC1 Mt Ruapehu
30 July Wed evening	SC2 Briefing & intro to rope work
2 or 3 August	SC2 Mt Ruapehu
13 August Wed evening	SC3 Briefing and rope work
16 or 17 August	SC3 Mt Ruapehu

The fees for each of SC1, SC2, SC3 are \$50 if PNTMC member, or \$60 if non-member. These cover weeknight venues, day transport, group gear hire, and instruction. Individual gear hire, if needed, is an additional cost for non PNTMC members.

Pass the word round to friends you may think are interested.

Applications (returned application form and fee) close **Thursday 10 July**. Application forms are available on the Snowcraft link at: www.pntmc.org.nz or on the noticeboard at Club night.

For info contact Terry Crippen 356-3588 or Bruce van Brunt 328-4761.



Previous snowcraft course on Ruapehu

Native Tree Seedlings to Give Away

Cabbage tree; Hebe; Akeake; Lemonwood and other *Pittosporums*; Lancewood, Fivefinger and other *Pseudopanax*; Kowhai, etc. Far too many growing everywhere, come armed with a spade and a bag or three to put them in. Contact Terry 3563-588 or 027 643 3637.

Social Thursdays

Due to popular demand, Social Thursdays on the 1st Thursday of the month have commenced again over the winter period.

The first night was at the new restaurant called "Desert Rose", on the Corner of Cuba and Rangetikei Streets. A delicious meal was followed by coffee and cake at Cafe Cuba.

Contact Janet to find out where the next one will be (3 July) and to ensure your place at table. Start time 6pm.

Tararua Hut Bagging Competition

Following the success of our previous Ruahine hut bagging and peak bagging competitions, PNTMC is running a new hut bagging competition focused on the Tararuas.

The challenge will run from 1 July 2014 until 30 June 2015.

3 points per visit to Tararua hut, bivvy, shelter, Holdsworth Lodge etc – as long as they are on DoC website.

1 extra point if the visit is on a club trip.

1 extra point if you stay the night. (One hut only per night) Camping outside crowded huts counts.

1 extra point for a first visit.

All other DOC huts in the country - 1 point per visit (no extra points)

All huts maximum of 3 visits to count for points.

Please take photos to record the visit, as well as for producing a new poster. As our Ruahine hut bagging poster was a huge success, the club would like to produce a similar one for the Tararuas.

Hut bags, email to jwilson@inspire.net.nz.

Hut images, martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com

DOC News - Maropea Forks Hut

The new Maropea Forks Hut was officially opened on Saturday 14 June by a small delegation of tangata whenua, Defence and DOC staff. It looks great, and with all of its insulation components should be a very warm hut to stay in. The Defence Force personnel have done an excellent job in completing the project to a high standard, as well as being very good training for them in working at remote locations.



Linings on, next the furnishings.



All finished - the new Maropea Forks Hut

For Sale



Blue 2004 Mazda 6 automatic, 2.3 L; it's in very good condition for \$5000. Inside is spick and span and it has done 235,000km. As the owners are getting a new vehicle in about a week, they want to sell this one SOON. Contact Malcolm or Edith at 06 327-7825.

Trip Reports

15 February 2014 The Fantasy of Holdsworth-Baldy Grant Christian

It was the kind of day when most people would stay at home baking scones or reading the paper but the intrepid lads from the PNTMC headed off to a far off land called Holdsworth. Most of the kingdom was sound asleep when the lads crept out of bed, grabbed their swags and jumped into their wagon. The road to Holdsworth was long and windy but eventually the two explorers reached the place that would be the beginning of their adventure. They stared in awe at the forest cloaked ranges & the cloud shrouded peaks that pierced the sky in the distance.

Eager to set forth, the pair donned their especially made protective footwear crafted from the skin of cows and wearing magical clothes woven from recycled plastic bottles that would keep them warm even when wet.

One of the adventurers was from the land of Oz & had travelled across the great Tasman Sea to Enzed. He was unfamiliar with our mountains. Eager to enjoy the wondrous vistas that would unfold he set forth at a good pace, navigating the myriad of trails in the area and choosing one that would lead to those magnificent peaks in the sky. Knowing that the day would be long and arduous the two carried

a good supply of delicious treats and refreshments. They admired the magnificent trees that adorned their path and made a roof over their heads. There were miro, rimu, totara and everywhere the beech.

The trail soon headed up, following a long ridge that would eventually take them to the great peak known as Holdsworth, so named because a large pot of gold was once buried here and has never been found. The rising trail made our adventurers puff, and sweat started to dampen their brows.

Before long they arrived at a lookout called Rocky Knob, named by a well known petrologist because the large rock resembled the famous boxer who had been so battered and beaten he resembled a slab of rock.

They stopped and admired the views and looked up at the mysterious cloud hiding the coveted peaks. The weather wizard had predicted some wind and showers but thought the sky might later clear and reveal those secret peaks and the surrounding vistas. Resuming their journey the pair anticipated the excitement of standing atop the mighty peaks. They encountered fellow adventurers sitting beside the trail, resting from their exertions.

The trail flattened out for a short distance and the pertinacious duo recovered a little from the effort but soon the trails rose more steeply than before and sweat soaked their clothes. Their legs objected to what was being asked of them. Knowing the momentous challenge ahead the pair had no time to rest.

They reached a building with the name Powell Hut. Here the two had some food and drink before continuing their climb to the top of Holdsworth. After reaching the top of Holdsworth the next peak on their journey was Jumbo, so named because a blind leprechaun had seen an elephant resting on the peak.

The trail from Holdsworth to Jumbo was up and down. The cloud still made it hard to see what was ahead. The pair reached Jumbo around midday and talked to another adventurer. From Jumbo they had to change direction and head towards Angle Knob (the origin of this name is somewhat obtuse). To ensure they were heading in the right direction the pair made use of their magic pointer, provided by the navigation wizard to guide them on their way.

They met some other adventurous souls who had turned back upon reaching the precipitous Broken Axe Pinnacles. They informed our pair that the Broken Axe Pinnacles were too daunting for them to attempt. This comment concerned our brave duo who did not want to go that far and find they had to come back.

Regardless of their concerns they continued with their plan. Once on Angle Knob the pair was confused as to which was the correct path. After investigating one possibility that turned out to be the wrong direction they found the correct path to McGregor. McGregor was named after an early Scottish settler who got lost here when searching for his whiskey still.

They reached McGregor and knew the next challenge was the infamous Broken Axe Pinnacles, so named because they were once part of the wall of a giant's castle which had withstood an attack by the axe wielding lost tribe of the Tararuas.

The first and highest pinnacle was straight forward and the trail lead over the top of the peak, further along the trail the second Pinnacle was very steep and the trail sided the peak. The trail carried on over the other pinnacles, getting very narrow and precipitous in places but the two adventurers carried on undeterred.

The next peak was South King, named after the famous King of the South who had brought together all the disparate kingdoms of the Tararuas and killed the last of the Mitre dragons. South King was just past the turn off to Baldy. Only one of the duo climbed South King while the other waited at the turn off. While climbing South King he came very close to another adventurer heading in the same direction. He stopped on the peak while the other adventurer headed off into the mist without knowing there had been someone just behind him. He soon returned from the short walk to the top and the pair headed downhill to Baldy, named by the person who had developed the now popular body waxing process.

It was an easy walk over the top of Baldy and the pair had completed their quest to climb the peaks but still had a long journey to get to the end of the trail. At this time the cloud lifted and the pair had great views of the ridge they had walked along and all the peaks from Jumbo to South King.

They descended quickly through the tussock and then the trail went steeply down through the bush. It took them a long time to reach the intersection with the other trail and longer than they expected to follow the trail alongside the river and reach the Atiwhakatu Hut.

After a short break at the hut the two headed off at a quick pace and arrived back at their starting point in an hour and a half, 12 hours and 10 minutes after they had started on their quest. Tired but satisfied they climbed back into their wagon and headed for home.

We were Grant Christian and Steve Hereiban.

23 March North Ruapehu Lava Field Peter Wiles

When the party of four arrived at the Chateau carpark shortly after 9 am, a substantial assembly of nine prepared for the walk in fine, calm but overcast conditions. The track began behind the shelter a minute or two up the road. After a brief passage through beech forest we emerged onto open ground and a gently rising track up the spur towards the Pinnacles. The marked track runs out after a while but travel continues on easy ground comprising patches of grass, mud, scoria and rocks.

We stopped for morning tea on a flattish area before we deviated eastwards to the edge of the spur. Once at the edge we carefully picked our way down into the gully as the ground was steep and potentially slippery with many loose boulders to keep an eye on. Once down into the bottom of the ravine behind the Pinnacles we enjoyed one of the hidden gems lurking off the tracks on the slopes of Ruapehu as we picked our way up the gorge.



Hidden gorge a Ruapehu gem [Peter Wiles]

We crossed the stream at the top of a rapid and then continued on a side up to the crest of the eastern side of the ravine before crossing

under another bluff and heading down on the scree towards the lava field. We crossed another stream and stopped at the top of the waterfall that plunges down onto the lava field. We continued down onto the lava field and headed eastwards to the base of the cinder cone near its eastern edge.

It was time for lunch. Warren surveyed his map and found a designated spot height not far away to the east on a spur. Thinking of bagging another peak, and a few of the team in support, Warren headed off to attain another peak. Meanwhile the rest of the team climbed up about 30 or 40 m to inspect the small crater. And as forecast, some rain started.

We packed up and trudged over the lava field in the rain, which fortunately was not too heavy. We joined up with Warren's group who had found their peak was something of an illusion. At the edge of the field we located an easy spot to slide down through a short section of scrub close to the Round-the-Mountain Track.

The rain eased and once on the track, we keep up a fast pace back to the Chateau. Rain threatened again but was hardly worth worrying about. The track from Tama Lakes back to the Chateau always seems to go on longer than you expect; perhaps because you can see the Chateau a considerable distance away?

Once back at base, we changed and visited the shop for an ice-cream or drink and then headed off back to Palmy.

Martin & Anne, David & Katherine, Warren, Woody, Richard, Peter & a lady who joined our party after a chance meeting at the Visitor Centre.

4 May Arawaru (Baldy) Loop Dave Grant

This trip was really an extension of the tramp two of us did into Hardings Park in early April. Again, leaving the Kahuterawa road end a bit after 8am on a misty Sunday, we headed up the Sledge Track and east into the Otangane catchment towards the Nipple.

However, just short of the Nipple another new track branches off and heads south to Arawaru, following around the head of Quartz Creek. The bush is predominantly pepperwood and punga fern, varying between short and very short, with a couple of hundred metres of

leatherwood to negotiate on the final climb up to Arawaru. Not so pleasant travel when the vegetation is dripping wet from rain the night before !!

When the track had been forged in late 2013 it had been well marked with tape from the Nipple junction to the leatherwood, but for whatever reason someone had gone through and removed the markers so we had to rely on compass and occasional cut branches to make our way. Consequently this part of the journey was somewhat slower than anticipated. However we arrived at the top of Arawaru in reasonable time for lunch.



On top of Arawaru [Dave Grant]

The weather was still misty so we were denied the usual expansive views into the Manawatu from this high point. Resuming our tramp after lunch we headed west on the poorly marked old trail up to Arawaru and then picked up a hunters trail heading north on Quartz Ridge.

This becomes a well cut and marked trap line track a bit before high point 624. From there it is easy travel back towards the junction of Quartz Creek with the Kahuterawa, until the final section drops steeply into the creek. Then it is a short step down the valley to the Sledge Track and back at the carpark by about 3pm.

We were Janet Wilson, Karen Tutt, Anne and Martin Lawrence, and Dave Grant (scribe).

17-18 May Otunahe Reserve Graham Peters

13,000 hectares, 1,940 traps, 1,000 bait stations. All this is managed by the East Taranaki Environmental Trust (ETET) to protect and enhance the remaining native fauna and flora of the East Taranaki.

The 70 ha Otunahe Reserve is a private QEII covenanted reserve which lies on the farm property of Bob and Karen Schumacher, our genial and informed hosts for the weekend. Their property reflects the make up of the land under the ETET being roughly 7% farmland, 18% exotic forestry and 75% mature and regenerating native forest.

Within the reserve and the area managed by the trust there is a rich biodiversity and native bird species including fernbird, bellbird, tui, kereru, robin, falcon, whitehead, kiwi as well as bats.

The Trust started in 2004 and by the end of 2005 had 3,000 ha under management. A major driver of the trust was the decline in kiwi numbers in the area and every year a survey is undertaken to estimate the kiwi numbers. In 2007 they recorded 87 calls and in 2009 they recorded 161.

The genesis of this trip was when Janet was on one of her DOC jolly's, in this case a trap maintenance trip to an area managed by ETET. She found out that for a minimal donation to the trust you could be accommodated, fed and have a walk around the reserve. Hence 6 of us set out for Purangi in the wop wops of Taranaki. There was a little hiccup in the directions we were given but by using a bit of pre GPS technology (asking a local) we arrived safely.

The programme for our stay involved an afternoon walk around the reserve followed by a BBQ put on by our hosts the Schumachers and then after dark go with Bob to one of the stations for his kiwi listening survey.

Bob and one of the local volunteers accompanied us on our walk, filling us in on the background and current state of play with the project. He brought with him a radio tracking device, mainly I think to show us how it worked. Some of the transmitters are pretty useful, amongst other things being able to tell when a kiwi is incubating an egg and I think they can tell from the length of the incubation whether it was successful in hatching. Given the right conditions the kiwi can have 2 incubations per year. By the time we got back we were well and truly ready for dinner, of which there was plenty.

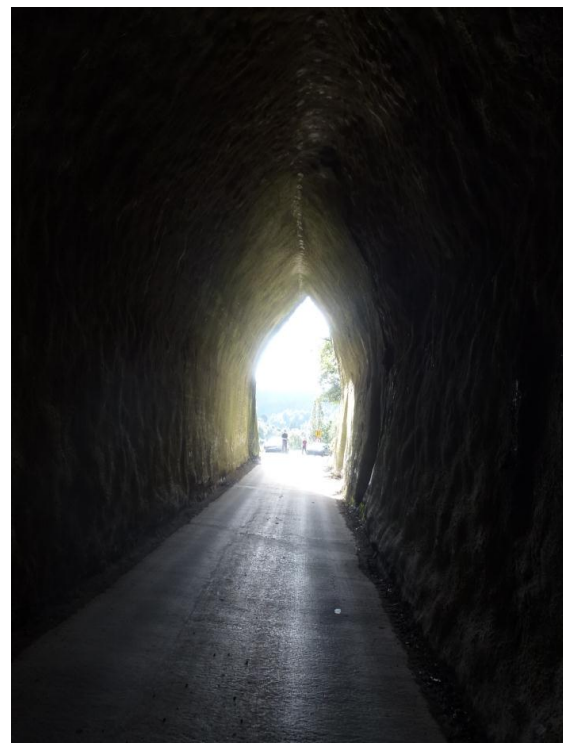
After dinner we were taken to one of the survey listening stations. It wasn't an ideal night as it was quite windy so there was a lot of background noise. Despite this we did hear

a couple or three kiwi. Just before we left, Bob did a bit of kiwi calling. It obviously helps if you try to physically impersonate a kiwi as you're doing it. Interestingly I never knew that male and female kiwi have quite different calls.

Like that of most species, the female's call is much harsher.

There was no time pressure on the Sunday to head home so we decided to take a more circuitous route that involved plenty of gravel road and a pretty impressive tunnel before we ended up on the Forgotten Highway heading back to Stratford.

On the trip were Catherine, Janet Wilson, Warren Wheeler, Geoff Phillips, Graeme Richards and myself.



*The tunnel out to the Forgotten Highway
[Graham Peters]*

**1 June
Rangiwahia Hut Track
Jordan & Tyler Walters**

It was a frosty Sunday morning and it was cold. I was about to walk into bush that was covered in frost. The views were awesome but it was hard going up as it was uphill, mainly all the way! I had to stop lots so my mum could

catch up. I wanted to see a wild deer, but luck didn't come my way.

We got so high that trees couldn't grow. I got to fill my drink bottle from under a waterfall walk over ice and then I was at the hut, Rangiwahia Hut had views to everywhere. Peter made us a hot drink and we had our lunch, the views were cool and my mum took heaps of photos.

We decided to go even higher past the trees and you could see everywhere. I want to go back here with a tent and camp out.

On the way down it was really easy. It was heaps faster coming down than going up, Peter also took us to see the slip, it was pretty big.

I would like to do the walk again, and stay at the hut then go on over the hills. Next time I want to take more of my friends.
Jordan - 11 years.



View from the tops [Amy Walters]

Going up the track had me breathing harder and my legs stinging but when you saw out through the bush it was awesome. We could see Mt Ruapehu and Mt Taranaki.

I felt relieved when we finally arrived at the hut, the sky was blue and all you could see was a bumpy landscape. Peter made me a cup of tea on his gas cooker and we rested in the sun while eating our lunch. There were heaps of people around enjoying the view too.

We decided to go even higher. We climbed higher through tussock grass, the track was muddy and still had frozen ice on it. I liked standing in it. When we turned around you could see even more than you could from the hut. We saw people walking higher over the ridge to the next hut. I think I'd like to do that.

When we started walking down it felt so much easier. It wasn't sore in my legs.

I felt pretty happy that I did this walk.
Tyler - 10 years.

[Peter Darragh was the leader on this family trip – Ed]

8 June 2014 Farm Walk Cory Johnson

When Li and I read "Farm Walk" we imagined a fairly flat stroll through some private pasture. But the newsletter also promised spectacular views. Which was it going to be? There was only one way to find out!

After meeting up with Terry and Warren in Palmy, we took off to The Leary's farm. Upon arrival, the question remained -- here's a farm, is this the walk? Not quite. We were introduced to the rest of the trampers -- Edith, Malcolm, Graham, and Janet -- two of which had not too long ago conquered the Himalayas. We took off again for our final destination: Malcolm and Edith's childhood playground. And was it beautiful.

We had only walked a hundred feet when the views opened up. The newsletter had kept its promise -- and our original picture of a flat field dissolved from memory. We must have forgotten that we were in New Zealand.



On the farm walk [Cory Johnson]

The green expanses of undulating hills and ravines joined up with an almost cloudless sky, the few clouds around leading one's eyes to the apparitional outlines of mountains in the distance. Luckily for us, too, the trip came equipped with: a geomorphologist (Terry), an amateur plant biologist (Warren), a local guide

(Malcolm), and a fearful (well, except for the rogue cow) canine leader (Bruce)! We were set for something special -- something hard to come by, even in these days of 'eco-tourism'.

Along the way, there were plenty of pitstops, to take in the view, or just to take off the far too many layers of clothing idiotically worn from the start (me)! One time we witnessed the perfectly single file line formation of some 'shoop' coming around a bend, displaying, for a moment, a species' utter trust in one another to lead the way. As far as humans went, well, I think we counted about a dozen houses in total, besides the occasional township tucked into a valley here and there. It was a blissful loneliness, one that has a definite end.

All in all, it was a wonderful day, which concluded with a hike past Malcolm's Uncle's old water shed, up to a panoramic view, followed by careful descent down the sheep paths. From up above we could trace out the twisting and turning bus route that Malcolm's Aunt used to drive as the driver for the local school. What a noble job that was, indeed.

On the way back we stopped off at an old hydro plant. It was a great historical monument, but even more fascinating to see were the rounded patterns of earth that had been perpetually shaped by the constant river flow. Terry was sure to explain all about them in the car, but it seems that I've already forgotten. In any case, it was just another example of nature leaving Art in it's wake. Literally.

The originally imagined walk happened, too, as we concluded the day with a tour of the Leary's farmland, which, to top it off, showcased a new litter of pups! For first timers, we really enjoyed the very welcoming experience and hope to see more sights during our fleeting time here.

15 June 2014
Tunupo
Nicola Wallace

Conditions looked good when we reached the Petersons Road End – cloudy, but it was high cloud, and Tunupo was clearly visible. But oh boy, it was windy and cold outside the car, so I stuffed an extra windproof jacket in to my already bulging pack. From the carpark there was a fantastic view of Mt Ruapehu and Mt Ngauruhoe, each with snow more than half

way down. We waited a few minutes for Janet and Graham to arrive from their shed, but set off when they didn't show, knowing that they'd catch us up. And it wasn't long before they did. I photographed Tunupo before we reached the Umutoi Stream bridge, as I thought the cloud might not stay high. Some sections of track here were quite roughed up, where clearly torrents of water had been running down the track.

There were 8 of us, and 4 dogs on this trip, and it was a relaxed pace, with a couple of stops for morning teas. The temperature was perfect – neither hot or cold. The recent wet and windy weather had resulted in quite a lot of windfall, but nothing too difficult to negotiate. As we ascended, a view through the bush revealed that Tunupo was now obscured by cloud. About 20 minutes from the top, with the temperature dropping rapidly, I stopped in the mist to don another 3 layers, the strong Westerly whipping my clothes round and making dressing difficult.



Lets get out of here, its freezing!
[Warren Wheeler]

Going over the little rocky knobs was exciting in the conditions, and it wasn't long before I went over a peak, and yelled out to Craig "Where's the top?" I thought it was further, but Craig said "Back there at the little cairn". Wow, I was at the top already, but in the poor visibility it didn't feel like it. Lunch was eaten hurriedly, and with difficulty, with freezing hands, and 2 hungry dogs coming at me from all sides trying to grab my ham sandwiches.

The others arrived, and Tina had sausages, which I hoped would be a distraction for the dogs. After a few minutes, we headed down. I had 6 layers of clothes on, and my body was warm, but hands were numb with two pairs of gloves on. Judging by the others' talk, their hands were the same.



*Dropping down out of the cold on Tunupo
[Warren Wheeler]*

As we descended, it was only 5-10 minutes before we started to get a view again. This was the best part of the trip, getting warmer and clearer all the time. Afternoon tea/second lunch was taken in the bush, with the dogs still after my grub, mandarins and banana this time. Soon we were down on the main track, with only the half hour walk back to the cars. Looking back from near the carpark, Tunupo was still well and truly under cloud. I'm looking forwards to going up there again – on a nice, clear day.

Thanks to Michael for leading this trip, Tina for giving me a ride there, and everyone for their company.

We were:

Michael Allerby (leader)
Craig Allerby
Warren Wheeler
Tina Bishop
Janet Wilson
Graham Peters
Margaret Bruce
Nicola Wallace.
And 4 dogs.

I'm Trekkin'

I'm trekkin I'm trekkin
I'm trekkin thru the wood
I'm trekkin I'm trekkin
Id' trek faster if I could

You don't have to trek too fast
you can take your time
if you want to hurry
you'll probably hate this rhyme

I'm trekkin I'm trekkin
My boots are done up tight
I'm trekkin I'm trekkin
I'm trekkin thru the night

I am from a land afar
my home is near the sea
this rarefied mountain air
just ain't thick enough for me

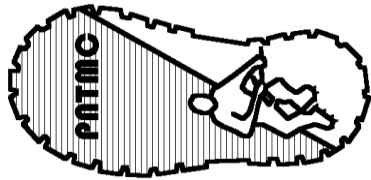
I'm trekkin I'm trekkin
I'm trekkin thru the snow
I'm trekkin I'm trekkin
I'm trekkin really slow

As we trek even higher
the sky begins to snow
this poor little kiwi
thinks the temperature too low

I'm trekkin I'm trekkin
I'm trekkin over rocks
I'm trekkin I'm trekkin
I'm trekkin in woolly socks

The peaks we now have climbed
the passes are behind us
I'll soon be flying home
cross it off the bucket list.

Composed by Grant Christian for the
Himalayan Expedition Farewell Party



Palmerston North
Tramping and
Mountaineering
Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217,
Palmerston North

PNTMC Newsletter

July 2014

What's inside this month?

- Upcoming Snowcraft
- Taranua Hut bagging Competition
- New Maropea Forks Hut
- Otunahe Reserve Kiwi calling
- Ruapehu Lava Field
- A Cold Day on Tunupo
- Rangiwahia Hut family trip
- Expedition Going Away Song
- Coming trips and more

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Warren Wheeler
the newsletter editor, via the club website
<http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>.

Get out and about with us!

**Sender: PNTMC
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