

PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - October 2000

*****THIS ISSUE*****

KAHUTERAWA AND TURITEA TRACK INFORMATION AND MAP

**TARANAKI SNOWCRAFT
WHAKAPAPA CLIMBING**

**THE TARARUAS- A BUSH SEARCH,
AND ANOTHER HISTORIC TRIP REPORT FROM THE 70'S
THE RUAHINES- HOWLETTS HUT and TUNUPO**

CLUB NIGHTS

OCTOBER 12	“Mr Explorer Douglas”	Graham Langton
OCTOBER 26	“Antartica”	Yvette Cottam
NOVEMBER 2	Committee	Peter Wiles House
NOVEMBER 9	“BYO slides and photos”	Whoever wants to
NOVEMBER 30	“Alaskan Wildlife”	Yvonne van Leeuwen
DECEMBER 14	End of year Barbeque” (with awards)	By the Committee

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

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

UP AND COMING TRIPS & EVENTS

Trip Grades

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

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs

Medium (M): 5-6 hrs

Fit (F): about 8 hrs

Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

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

Beginners should start with Easy Grade trips.

12 Oct Club night: "Mr Explorer Douglas" Graham Langton

Charlie Douglas (Mr Explorer Douglas) is perhaps the most interesting of New Zealand's explorers, spending the period from 1867 to 1916 exploring the rugged West Coast of the South Island. Some of us have had the pleasure of using Charlie Douglas' road in the Cascade Valley of South Westland. John Pascoe published the 1st edition of Mr Explorer Douglas in 1957. It soon became a classic and collectors item. This year Graham Langton has published a completely revised 2nd edition. Graham is a trumper, mountaineer and historian and specialises in mountaineering history. He gave a very interesting presentation to PNTMC earlier on the history of women climbers in NZ. His Mr Explorer presentation will be equally interesting. So come along for an informative evening.

14-15 Oct MSC Outdoor First Aid Course all
Dianne Seigenthaler 357-7237

This is a comprehensive outdoor first aid training, based at Highland Home, Pohangina Valley, with other interested people. It is a Residential Course, with bunkhouse accommodation and food provided, so the costs is \$115.00 (which sounds like pretty good value to me- ed). Friday's session starts at 7.30 PM, then Saturday's at 9.00 PM (including night time scenarios). Sunday's training should finish by 4.00 PM. Participants will then have earned their first aid certificate.

Dianne would appreciate early notification of interest, preferably by 10 October.

NB Dianne is taking a first aid refresher course on December 9 this year. This can update an outdoor first aid certificate more than two years old.

14-15 Oct McKinnon Hut M
Mick Leyland 358-3183

Depart 7am. McKinnon Hut is a great location above the bushline at the north end of Hikurangi Range (mid-western Ruahines). Head in from Kawhata Base, crossing the Kawhata River via the cableway for the steep grunt up onto the Hikurangi Range. Stroll along the top past some nice tarns and down to the hut. Back the same way Sunday or via the river.

15 Oct Blue Range loop M
Richard Lockett 323-0948

Depart 7-30am. A moderate walk in the eastern Tararuas, heading up Reef Creek to Blue Range Hut & some goblin forest, returning via the track.

19 Oct Thursday trampers
Merv Matthews 357-2858

LABOUR WEEKEND

20-24 Oct Thousand Acres Plateau M
Tony Gates 357-7439

Five full days in Kauharangi National Park, exploring the Thousand Acres Plateau, and the Matiri Valley. Tony plans a midnight departure, midnight Thursday that is, then five days of exploration in Kauharangi National Park, commencing at Murchison, then tramping around the gorgeous hinterland there. There are peaks with names like "Needle" and "Haystack", and probably the best native bird life found in NZ. A lovely spot.

21-23 Oct Tararua Southern Crossing M
Laurence Gatehouse 356-5805

A chance to do the classic crossing of the Tararua ranges at long weekend pace i.e. suited to the less fit of us. Please express interest at least a week beforehand, mainly to organise transport, then when numbers are settled we can fine tune our plans, organise food and stoves etc etc. and decide on a start time. I've been looking forward to doing this one for a couple of years now and it should be a good time to see the alpine flowers.

22 Oct Kiritaki ridge E
Merv Mathews 357-2858

An area quite close to town in the southeast Ruahines. There are a range of unofficial tracks that offer access into some good areas of forest, with some views. Give Merv a call.

26 Oct Thursday trampers
Carolyn Brodie 358-6576

**26 Oct Club night: "Antartica"
Yvette Cottam**

The Last Continent is a place few of us get a chance to explore. Yvette was part of a Massey Team doing penguin research at Cape Bird over the Millennium Summer Season. Bring your snow goggles and wrap up warm for this one.



[Photo: Yvette Cottam]

28 Oct Tama TNP M/F
Peter Wiles 358-6894

Tama Peak (about 1500 m) is located immediately south of Ngauruhoe and gives a good vantage point over the area north and south. We will leave 7 am from PN, and head for the Desert Road and take the track to Waihohonu. Then it is a well graded walk along the old lateral moraine wall before a scramble of 150m to Tama. We should get there for lunch. If weather is favourable we will complete a round trip back to Waihohonu by dropping off to pick up the round the mountain track. Grade medium.

29 Oct Piripiri Caves E/M
Graham Peters 329-4722

Are you scared of the dark? Are you petrified of confined spaces? Does the idea of wetas down your neck send shivers up your spine? Like being cold and wet? Does hanging over a precipice turn your knees to jelly? Then good, you are the ideal person to come and **enjoy** caving.

This is a day trip to the Piripiri caves, located up the Pohangina Valley, led by one of the club's most experienced cavers. Graham promises a good day out, then a stop at the Waterford Tavern on the way home to assist your recovery.

2 Nov Thursday trampers
Harry Allardice 323-4390

2 Nov Committee meeting
Peter Wiles's House

4-5 Nov Rangi – Triangle M
Liz Flint 356-7654

We plan to depart 8.00 AM from PN, and arrange one car at the Oroua road end, then all meet up at the Rangi car park. We should reach the tussock, and the popular Rangi Hut by morning tea time, then the top of the Whanahui Range for lunch.. Great views of the central Ruahine Ranges from here. Then we will descend to the pleasant Triangle Hut for the night. Sunday will see us tramping down the Oroua River (wet feet!), over the hill, and so to Iron Gates Hut, which is also a pleasant spot next to the river). It's a main highway type track out from there (but easier continuing to tramp down the river).

5 Nov Rangetikei rafting Derek
Sharp 326-8178

Explore the middle reaches of Rangitikei River (behind Taihape) the easy way on this day trip, and enjoy being guided by professionals. A little bit of Grade 5 rafting. Cost will be about \$90.00 pp, with a roast dinner for an extra \$10.00, and a night at the lovely River Valley Lodge (backpacking style) for an extra \$15.00. Derek needs at least 12 people on the trip.

9 Nov Thursday trampers
Anne Green 06 374-5208

9 Nov Club night: BYO winter and SI slides

This is your big chance to show off your best pickies to fellow club members, and admire work by others. These club nights are always popular, so come on along. Slides *and* photographs are

welcome. If you have some slides to show, then not too many please.

11-12 Nov Totara Flats E
Richard Lockett 323-0948

Depart PN 8.00 AM to Masterton, then Holdsworth Lodge. A good, cruisy overnight tramp to a classic Tararua area. There is a good DOC hut to stay in, or good campsights for those so inclined. This tramp is suitable for children.

12 Nov Forks Hut M/F
Mick Leyland 358-3183

This is a good traditional tramping spot in a tributary of the Pohangina Valley. It is a heavily forested area, with some rugged streams, a few grassy clearings, and a good DOC hut. We plan to depart PN at 7.00 AM, and tramp over the farmland and forest to Forks Hut, then beyond (now that's really off the beaten track). Stinging Nettle and other undesirable plants are sometimes found in this area, so beware.

12 Nov SAR Track and Clue Awareness
Terry Crippen 356 3588

This will be a training day on methods of finding and identifying clues for search and rescue purposes. Useful for club members on the SAR callout list, or for those experienced trampers who want to become involved with SAR. Contact Terry for further details.

16 Thursday trampers
June Sowerby 353-2690

18-19 Waiopahu E/M
John Barnett 355-0933

This is to be an overnight tramp in the Levin area, departing 8.00 AM from PN. There is a good track past Edwards Shelter to the historic Waiopahu Hut, where John plans to doss down for the night. The hut construction includes timber cut from the bush, an open fireplace, and no mattresses. Not far from the hut is Waiopahu Peak, with its excellent views of much of the Tararua Ranges, and coastal plains. The tramp could wander back down the ascent route, or continue on over Waiopahu, and down to the Ohau River, then the car (both about the same distances). Back home mid afternoon Sunday.

19 Nov Waipawa area E/M
Liz Todd 323-6246

Day trip to explore the heavily eroded Waipawa River headwaters (near Sunrise Hut), in Southern

Hawkes Bay. If the weather is suitable, then a trip onto the tops is possible.

23 Thursday trampers
Phil Pearce 354-6687

25 Nov (Sat) Navigation 1 and River Safety
Terry Crippen 3563-588

A day of instruction on two important aspects of safe tramping. Come to one or both:

An introduction to the use of compass, estimating distances and times. Compass supplied. Lunch break and then: Secondly, river safety instruction by the Manawatu Branch of the NZ Mountain Safety Council. This activity is always enjoyable with the keen ones going in for repeated wettings in the Pohangina or Manawatu Rivers.

Both activities meet at the public shelter Ashhurst Domain. Starting times: 10.00 am for the Navigation, (bring your boots or other suitable footwear and a pencil), and 1.00 pm for the River Safety. Bring your normal pack filled with an equivalent of a weekend load sealed in plastic bags, and lots of warm polyprop clothing for when you are in the lovely warm water.

26 Nov (Sun) Kahuterawa -Water Reserve
Development M

Terry Crippen 3563-588

Depart 8am for a working bee and track investigation in a new area close to town: the Kahuterawa Valley and the PN City Water Supply Reserve (see Notice and map later in this newsletter). Will have two groups; one heading up from Black Bridge for some tracking cutting and benching; the other going into the top end via the PNCC access road and working down to the Kahuterawa. The two groups meeting for lunch and heading out the other way. Loppers, grubbers, and other tools needed. This trip offers a good chance to help develop an excellent tramping area very close to town.

(Note this trip replaces Nav 2)

30 Thursday trampers Vina
Cottam 354-5045

30 Club night: Alaskan Wildlife Yvonne van Leeuwen

Trip participants:

If you are interested in going on a trip, please contact the leader at least three days in advance.

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

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

***** OVERDUE TRIPS *****

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

NOTICES

STAND-IN EDITOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER...

In the meantime Tony Gates, ably assisted by Warren Wheeler, will be looking after the October and November editions of the newsletter while I am away. So please note the following temporary arrangements until I return:

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Until John returns on 7th November, please send articles to Tony Gates at horizons.mw (regional council) at 15 Victoria Ave. This is the same street address as John's work, but e-mailed stuff should be sent to Tony's e-mail address, *not* John's:

tony.gates@horizons.govt.nz

We'd prefer you to include your article as an attachment (please use Microsoft Word Version 7.0 or Rich Text Format), unless it is quite a small article, in which case it is fine to type it directly into the e-mail.

Note that e-mails with certain attachments (particularly scanned photos) will be filtered by a "quarantine" system at horizons - you will get an automatic e-mail reply from the horizons 'postmaster', confirming this. Don't worry about this, all material gets through to us once it is checked for viruses etc. by horizons' staff.

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

John Phillips (editor)

EDITORIAL



The Newsletter Editor hiding in the Mangaehuehu Glacier, March 2000 [Photo: Bruce Van Brunt]

Well, John is now in Nepal, and I'm standing in for him for a couple of issues. I've found it a lot of work, a lot of fun, and have learnt heaps about the art of shuffling around articles and photographs to fit. Thanks to all the contributors. More stuff for the next issue please.

The Annual Interclub Quizz was held recently, and was skilfully, though closely, won by the team from Mountain Equipment. The Trevor Bissell Memorial Billy is now proudly displayed in the shop. MUAC, MTSC, and PNTMC all

fielded teams, so that they, and their supporters, could enjoy a fun evening.

Senior Sergeant Bill Richardson, from the Palmerston North Police SAR, spoke to us last month on his business. It was an opportune time, what with the dramatic and much publicised rescue of two trampers up in the Kaimanawas, and our own participation in the Otaki Search. Also, he advertised other SAR training that PNTMC is involved with.

LETTER TO PNTMC

Hello all,

I'm coming back to PN, but just for a few months, then I'll be moving to Hamilton, but it will be good to catch up with you all again and do some more tramping in my favourite hills.

My Munro bagging in Scotland has been a great success, 130 in the summer to give me a total of 230 out of the 284 Munros, but the weather had started to crap out on me, so I decided to come back for my third summer in a row! If anyone happens to know of a furnished flat for rent or someone looking for a flatmate for October to February, then please let me know.

See you soon, regards and happy tramping
Peter Burgess.

ALPINE CALENDARS.

Time to get your order in for the 2001 Alpine and Antarctic calendars. Christmas is rapidly approaching! Price should be about \$15.00 each, with bulk buy discounts. Give Peter a ring at 358-6894 or email to; pwiles@wiles.gen.nz.

NB there is a stunning time exposure photo of Taranaki at night by Harley Betts in next years Alpine Calendar. You might recognise it from our very own photo competition!

NEXT TRIP CARD

Preparations are underway for the January- June 2001 Events Card. The Trip Coordinators are; Terry (356 3588), Janet (329 4722), and Dave (359 8269). They will be contacting prospective trip leaders, but if you want to choose a particular trip, then be in early and contact one of them. How about a Nelson Lakes or Kauharangi National Park Easter Trip.

Suggestions for Club Nights also wanted. Contact Warren (356 1998)

KAHUTERWA TRACK PROJECT Terry Crippen (refer to map at end of Newsletter)

As mention in a previous newsletter and in the Evening Standard, there are a number of proposals for additional use of the Palmerston North City's Water Supply reserve. One proposal is to open up part of it for recreation - the Harding's Park area, ie the Kahuterwa and Otangane parts that are not used for actual water supply (the Tiritea part is used for water supply). I'm the Club representative on the Project Investigation Group for this particular proposal. There are a number of parts to the proposal; cutting a track up the true right of the Kahuterawa Stream from Black Bridge along a paper road; developing a loop track in Harding's Park; and putting a track across the range (following more or less a historic route). The plan is to eventually have a range of easy, medium and more difficult tramps - with excellent views and swimming holes in an area close to town, but joining the Tararua Forest Park, with historic and past mining interest as well. I have been helping Ian Argyle (who initiated the idea of opening up the Sledge Track - part of the paper road formed in the 1890's) cut the track up the Kahuterawa. Also Warren Wheeler, Christine Cheyne and I, together with Ray Christmas (who proposed the track across the Range), have been investigating the areas within the water reserve - marking and opening up rough hunters tracks and investigating further routes. So if you want to give us a hand at any of these activities, especially the cutting of the track up the Kahuterawa (since we want to get to Quartz Creek by Christmas) - get in contact with me (Terry) on 356-3588. NB, we are also having a day up ther Sunday 26 Nov (refer trips).

TURITEA KIWI SANCTUARY Donald Kerr

Another proposal for part of the water reserve is to have a "mainland island". I used the Annual Plan process to suggest this to the City Council. Intensive trapping would be required to create a predator free sanctuary for native flora and fauna. This would also help the native forest in the water reserve to regenerate better. Threatened native species like kiwi could then be re-introduced into our local forest. Species like kiwi are rapidly declining outside of protected areas and numbers

are down to about 70,000 birds for the whole of NZ, from an estimated 12 million a thousand years ago. The water reserve has an area of 3500 hectares of native bush. About half of this area is outside of the water catchment used by the city and is currently being investigated for recreation (see previous notice). The PNCC referred the idea

of a Kiwi Sanctuary to the Recreation, Leisure and Cultural Committee for consideration. Any comments or questions about a Kiwi sanctuary to Donald (a currently inactive member of PNTMC), at UCOL phone 952-7001, extn 7636 or email: d.kerr@ucol.ac.nz

TRIP REPORTS

History section. Tales from an era ago, before Conservation was a Government Department, and before cell phones and GPS's:

TARARUA CONSERVATION WORK PARTY
12- 13 August 1978

The usual promotional announcement advertising the conservation work party was withheld pending information from the Forest Service. /due to lack of Government finance, and pressure of work upon their officers, the Forest Service weren't able to provide direction concerning appropriate work. No direction, therefore no announcement, therefore very nearly, no trip (but not quite). As we were only three, any worthwhile conservation "work" was beyond our capacity, but it was rumoured that Mangahuka [hut] had some sort of drainage problem associated with the farm, so we decided to go to Mangahuka, inspect, and report.

Like good little conservationists, we gurgled through the centre of all the muddy bits of the Fields Track, and we conserved energy by travelling slowly- so well in fact that we never reached Maungahuka Hut. At Vosseler Peak, we headed down towards Penn Creek and made camp by a tarn near the bushline.

Next day, the blazes were soon lost, but we continued bashing down to more horizontal terrain, quickly discovering that cutty grass does not help in conserving skin or blood. After lunch at Penn Creek Hut, We headed out the high level track, arriving on the farmland in darkness. To conserve the batteries in our torches, we blundered around the paddocks with the other lost sheep until eventually finding the swingbridge and the road back to the car park.

Party: Gill Davies, Susan Cade, Brad Owen

OROUA- TUNUPO 13 August
by Monica Cantwell

Our starting time was to be 7.30 AM, but our leader decided on 8.00 AM from our usual car park, and we set out at 9.00 AM. The weather did not look too bad at this stage. Dave, John, and Liz decided to cross over the tops and come down from Toka, leaving the leader in charge of the rest of us. "Max" the back Lab caught an Opossum 5 minutes into the track, which we thought was pretty good, he'll clean them all out by the end of the day. As we got higher into the mist, the weather became worse. Luckily, the wind was on our backs. We met the "advance" party coming back just below the summit of Tunupo, as they had had enough of the adverse weather. Duncan and myself crossed over the top of Tunupo, and tried to get out of the gale force wind. A few minutes later, Peter, our leader arrived with Elaine. He said "well done team", and we replied "well done leader!". He checked that we had all our gear on, then we headed straight back for cover and lunch at 2.00 PM. Temperature read zero on the top, and 5 degrees where we stopped for lunch. For all this, it was lovely being in the snow. Our arrival time at the cars was 4.30 PM, where it really started to rain. Someone said "tomorrow will be a better day"- How true this turned out to be.

Thanks team, and leader. We were; Monica Cantwell, Duncan Hedderly, Dave Henwood, John Barnett, Liz Scott, Elaine Herve (with Max), and Peter Darragh (our leader).

SNOWCRAFT 3 1-3 September Phil Eades

Whilst most of the participants of Snowcraft 3 sensibly drove up to Taranaki from Palmerston North, I decided to be an individual and drive from Rotorua. The five hour trip was fairly uneventful, apart from driving with no lights for a while after my chip stop at Te Kuiti. We all rendezvoused at Konini Lodge (DoC) on Dawson Falls Road at about 10pm, with just enough time to have a quick cup of tea and a chat with our

respective instructors about the coming days activities, before hitting the sack. The instructor/student ratio was excellent, with five instructors to ten students. The instructors consisted of Terry, Bruce, Barry, Dave and Alisdair. It was really good to see that most of the students from Snowcraft 2 had returned for some more excitement. It was a shame that our fellow pom Mike Whitton couldn't make it; he does have some fairly important responsibilities now, with young Alex to be a role model to, so we will let him off this time. The usual 6 am breakfast set us up for the day: a couple of muesli bars and a cup of tea for me, start as you mean to go on, that's what I say. The hour-long tramp up to Kapuni Lodge (EAC) hut should have been a breeze, but I wasn't use to the heavy pack, so it was far sweatier than I'd expected. The hut is in an ideal position with great views of the summit (at times) and the forest below, with a climb of only a couple of hundred metres to the snowline. While the accommodation was definitely that of a hut rather than the palatial luxury experienced at Whakapapa on Snowcraft 2, it was still comfortable, with a very civilized supply of teabags. Bruce had cunningly set off early so as to sort a few things out at the hut, and most importantly to get some water boiling for yet another cup of tea. We dropped our gear off and then split into our respective teams and headed up towards the snow. Janet and I quickly began our lessons, as Terry showed us in the first stretch of snow how to self-arrest without ice axes, which kept us amused for a while. As we headed on up towards Phantoms Peak and Syme Hut, the weather took a distinct turn for the worse, with poor visibility and strong winds regularly pushing us off the track. By the time we had all reached Syme, the wind was howling, so we all crammed into the hut to warm up with snacks and hot drinks, before getting stuck into practicing our snow skills. Celine had unfortunately dropped her helmet on the way up to the hut, and it seemed fairly unlikely that it would ever be seen again, at least by our club. Teams then headed off in various directions in search of good snow and ice. We chose a gentle snow slope below a rock face, and reminded ourselves how not to uncoil ropes, before practicing our ropework, belay placements, and single and double anchors points. After a few hours of this it was time to head back down to the hut, leaving the crack European/USA team (Celine, Marcus and Bruce) attacking the rock wall above us. My last view through the mist was of Marcus climbing higher and higher, saying

"No, this is no good for placing anchors, I think I'll go a little Further up" and Bruce looking enviously at Marcus' ice screws. Our route down took in a handy bum-sliding short cut down one of the snow gulleys, where fortunately Celine's helmet was found hiding. Back at the hut a roaring fire was quickly made, and copious amounts of tea and biscuits were consumed. This was soon followed by huge pile of tasty pasta slop, courtesy of Harley, followed by chocolate and washed down with tea (of course). We were then treated to an excellent talk by Alisdair on "How to be prepared for any eventuality on a mountain", including "spare waterproofs for random idiots" This was followed by a short but sobering description of a first-hand experience of being buried in an avalanche, by Dave and an account by Harley of suffering from mild hypothermia on a previous Snowcraft Course.

An early-ish night was had by all (I felt like I imagine it feels to have run a marathon), and was made all the more peaceful by confining all snorers to one room. Even Marcus must have been tired, as he refrained from his usual midnight mountain expedition. A breakdown in communications had resulted in a couple of people not bringing their own breakfast. Harley heroically gave his rations away, however he was saved from sure starvation by Terry's emergency supply of rice pudding (which smelt very nice, but I'm sure wasn't a patch on my and Janet's porridge). A fairly lazy 7 am start on Sunday morning was followed by a swift tramp up to the snowline, where Janet, Terry and I peeled off from the rest and bravely fought our way up a "vast and dangerous snow gully". When Janet and Terry had finished ridiculing the angle of the snow-steps that I was cutting, we spent the next five hours practicing our ropework, belay placement, snow stake anchors for upward and downward pulls, snow stake runners, ice axe belays, Saxon cross anchors, and a couple of ice screw anchors just for good measure. Janet sadly lost her temper with a snow stake at one point, and broke her (Terry's) Lucky hammer on it. We never quite made it up to Phantoms Peak. the gully was "fairly awesome" and we headed back down to the hut at about 2:30 pm to clear up and debrief. Everyone seemed to have had a great time and learned a lot, once again. I found that I definitely need to be fitter to climb (NZ) mountains carrying lots of gear. Several people learned not to buy cheap ice hammers (Terry, Peter, Chris), as two others had also broken.

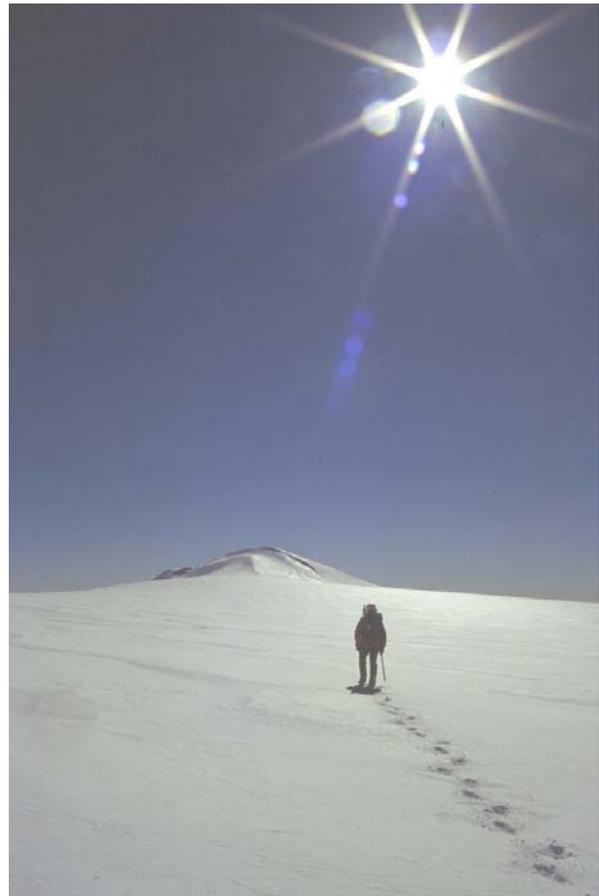
Chris was fairly convinced that sticking his trouser bottoms down with tape didn't work as well as a pair of snow gaiters. We then charged off down the track to the DoC carpark for a quick getaway, everyone else so that they could stop off for a smorgasboard Chinese meal at Double Happy, me so that I could get back to RotoVegas before midnight. All in all, it was a great weekend, and many thanks are due to the organisers, instructors, and students, for making it work so well.

Pupils, Helpers, and Instructors were: Marcus Duerer, Christine Taylor, Chris Brausch, Anneli Baehr, Celine Duwig, Harley Betts, Janet Shields, Phil Eades, Carlo van den Deijssel, Janet Wilson, Bruce van Brunt, Barry Scott, Dave Henwood, Alisdair Noble, Terry Crippen, Peter Darragh.

WHAKAPAPA CLIMBING TRIP 16- 18 Sept
Terry Crippen

The yearly trip up to the NZAC hut on Ruapehu was again planned for a full moon weekend, which meant Sarah, Warren and Harley had perfect conditions for their late Friday night arrival; an excellent freeze and a calm moon light night - no head lamps were needed. Nigel S and I had headed up beforehand, midday on the Friday, again in perfect (skiing) conditions - hot and calm - so we needed to take the chairlift. After a lazy lunch we had a session on the snow and rocks just up from the hut, a good start to a long weekend for us.

Saturday, fine and clear, with Nigel G arriving via Raurimi and motor bike from Whakatane. It was off up to the Summit Plateau for various activities. Plenty of photography by Harley, and investigation of the Crater Lake (now filling up) by Sarah, Warren and Harley. NS, NS and I headed over to a promising icy face on the Te Hue Hue ridge. But it turned out TOO promising = too steep with a large overhanging tongue of ice. So we sidled along looking for something a bit more to our liking - a steepish short, but cold gully. Good leading by NG, utilising his new ice screws that come with handles for winding them in, saw the three of us up and onto the ridge crest in short time. By this stage Warren had joined us leaving Sarah and Harley sunbathing, photographing and eating, a good kilometre away on Cathedral rocks.



Sarah Todd traversing the Ruapehu Plateau.

[Photo: Harley Betts]

We then wandered up to the Summit for a bite of food and a chat with various other bods up on high - with the excellent weather there were people all about: ice gully climbers, snow strollers, skiers and snow boarders plugging uphill in the heat of the day. We offered to take the weight off their backs (ie borrow their skis for US to descend on) but no takers. We paid a visit to the yearly TTC snowcave village on the Te Hue Hue - Pinnacle Ridge before tackling the trickiest part of the mountain - the ski field chaos - and back to the full hut. Sarah and Harley exhausted themselves cruising around on the Plateau and Te Hue Hue till late teatime.

Sunday was a medium early start for most of us. Warren however, not armed with a watch proceeded to have a false VERY early start, 2pm, getting up and dressed by mistake with another party who were heading out to be on the summit plateau for sunrise.

NS and NG headed over to the Pinnacles and investigated the Gorilla on the Grand Pinnacle,

opting out of its overhanging ice lobe, and heading up to the sun at the col on the ridge line. Warren (after going back to bed), Harley, Sarah and I headed off to some steep but nearby snow and rock bluff slopes, for numerous short pitches. Back to the hut for lunch to escape the heat and soft snow. NG headed down and back to Whakatane; Sarah, Harley and NS had afternoon snoozes, while Warren and I did a couple of pitches amongst the rocks in the amphitheatre. Then it was time for all but NS and I to head home. Its always welcome late Sunday afternoon when the hut empties out of the capacity weekend crowd (this weekend it 25), but it would have been nice if NG, Sarah, Warren, and Harley could have stayed as well.

Monday morning was a proper early start for NS and I, leaving the hut at 5am and cramponing up in good conditions, except for a bit of wind at Pare Col, across the slopes of Dome, towards the crater face of Taurangi. We chose a respectable 4 or 5 pitch route on the right hand side of the face - excellent conditions till NS led the last pitch onto the summit and into a gale strength sou'-westerly wind. We had been sheltered from it in the crater basin and couldn't see the continuous curtain of spin-drift rising from the Taurangi-Girdlestone Ridge (the weather forecast had predicted strong winds were on the way). So a very quick summit grub stop before a rapid descent down into the shelter of the crater basin. Here, north facing with no wind, it was off with most of our gear for the over hot plug back to the Dome.

It wasn't till we were nearly back to Dome that we saw any other people - all morning we had had the whole summit area to ourselves - thats the way it should be - perfect!



Sarah Todd admiring the Ruapehu Plateau, and the Crater Face of Tauharangi Peak, from Te Heu Heu.

[Photo: Harley Betts]

Once back at the hut we had a lazy late lunch, a relax and a good clean up, leaving the hut spick and span, before heading down (fortunately leaving the hut before the next lot of hut residents arrived - a poly tech group). We rewarded ourselves after a excellent time on the mountain with a relaxing chair lift descent, before bidding farewell to each other, NS off to Taranaki and TC off to PN.

The six of us were, Nigel Scott, Nigel Green, Sarah Todd, Harley Betts, Warren Wheeler and Terry Crippen.

OTAKI BUSH SEARCH.

19 Sept

You may have heard on the news that a person disappeared in the Otaki Gorge area recently. As soon as they were notified, the Police organised a search, and sent 10 teams of 4 experienced bush people to comb the rugged terrain near Otaki Forks for several days.

Four of us were involved. Firstly, the local Four Wheel Drive Club took us to Waitohu Lodge, high up in the misty Otaki forest. We were organised with other search teams to each cover a ridge and side creek of "Boulder Creek", which is an area that tramping groups would not normally visit. We spent 6 hours doing what we do best (some would use the word "grovelling") to no avail. The four wheel drives picked us up just on dark. Steady rain had swollen the Otaki River, and the body of the lost person was eventually found in the river itself. At least some possibilities of where he might have been were covered, and the police were satisfied that he wasn't up in the bush.

Many Thanks to Mick, Tony, Llew, and James, for being the club search team on this occasion, and to Peter, Warren, and Kevin for going on standby for the "final sweep". Often, search teams are required at very short notice, so it is good that PNTMC can muster the troops. Our club has a vast amount of experience and local knowledge to offer the Police organisers. Terry Crippen, PNTMC SAR contact.



The Waikotore River, Northern Ruahines in flood, April 2000. A reminder of what it was like in the Tararuas.

[Photo : Alistair Millward]

DAPHNE- HOWLETT- LONGVIEW HUTS 23-24 September 2000

We intrepid two left PN at 7am for the eastern Ruahines and Howlett's hut. *Oh, what's happening club members, why so few to such a magic spot??* [answer, on standby for the Otaki Search- TC]. The day was overcast this side of the Gorge but the East Coast worked it's magic and blue skies and sunshine awaited us. As we drove up the Ashley Clinton road, in the distance Daphne ridge was clear and behind stood the high peaks of Te Hekenga and Tiraha showing only thin streaks of snow in the shady gullies (unusual for this early in the season) against a background of Norwest cloud. We excitedly pondered our chances of making Howletts early enough to head up onto the tops today, and maybe looping out tomorrow northwards over the Sawtooth to Ohuinga and back down Black Ridge. 9.30 AM saw us heading off across the farmland up the spur towards the bushline, and the start of the Daphne track. grass ends and the bush begins. It was a real howling, lean-into-it , pack-straps-slap-you-in-the-face, norwester. Like Mo Greene doing the 100 metres at Sydney, our faces were pointing to the ground to reduce wind resistance, and our muscles and lungs were straining considerably. Wind was blowing and on the ridgetop where the And then, in the shelter of the bush, the sudden calm, and the primeval moan of frantically rushing wind in the tree tops above. City worries disappeared with the wind. The track followed down through the beech forest, dropping across a side stream of the Tukituki showing recent sign of a massive flood with new log jams piled high and filled in behind with raw gravel.

On to join the Longview-Daphne track and down to the Tukituki itself with further signs of flooding that had stripped the old high terraces clean of toi toi and scrub and opened up new slips along the hillsides. Tony risking life and limb to climb a rotten old tree to get a better photo vantage point. Daphne hut by 11.30 gave us an excuse to drop our packs, have a brew and an early lunch and rest up in the sunshine. We headed off again about 1.00pm stopping briefly on the river just below the hut to talk to 3 trampers just arriving, and then carried on up the steep climb to Howletts hut. At the bush edge it was apparent that the wind was just as strong as earlier so by the time we reached Howletts at about 3pm we gave away any idea of further travel, content to sit around the fire, drink tea, yarn, snooze and just enjoy the wilderness. We had the hut to ourselves and 6 o'clock saw the evening meal done, the fire stoked up, and us settled down for the night. 12 hours later (my God when did I last spend 12 hours in the sack!!) it was obvious the weather had deteriorated and the clag had come down and the wind still howled. But what a dawn. Viewed from the Howlett hut dunny (best dunny view in the Ruahines!!) with a picture frame of 4x2 and corrugated iron the rising sun was a great sphere of molten gold in a sea of red/orange mist - ceiling of dark grey cloud above - vague outlines of bush clad ridgelines below and to the sides. Satisfaction. By 7.30am we had broken camp and were battling our way through the wind and thin rain southward along Daphne ridge towards Otumore and the Pohangina saddle. Long gone were yesterday's thoughts of a circuit to the north. Let's head south and maybe the weather will clear and we can drop down to Top Gorge hut in the head of the Po then up to Longview and back out to Moorcock base. It was one of those head-down-plod-along sort of journeys, isolated by the weather in your own little envelope of storm-gear shelter, keeping an eye on the tell tale signs to make sure you didn't stray off the faint trail. Coming down off Otumore we saw figures appearing out of the mist. Lo and behold, Richard Lovell and a friend closely followed by a party of 7 from Victoria University Club. Our little bubble of isolation burst. So the real world still exists out there afterall. They had spent the night at Longview (must have slept in seeing it was now about 9.30!!). After a few minutes of chat , including finding out that one of the Vic trampers mowed Tony's father's lawns (still a small world eh), we went our separate ways. Tony and I made our decision that since the weather was still crap we

would abandon the idea of finding our way down to Top Gorge hut and instead head straight to Longview. Of course by the time we got there things had started to clear. How typical. Never mind, we had a brew and a feed and then made our way back along the tussock tops to the Moorcock track in the sunshine, looked at Te Hekenga now clear of cloud and felt relieved for Richard and the other trampers we had passed earlier. Hope you had a great day guys. By 2.30 we were back at the road end ready to head home.

We were Tony Gates and Dave Grant



Marlborough Rock Daisy

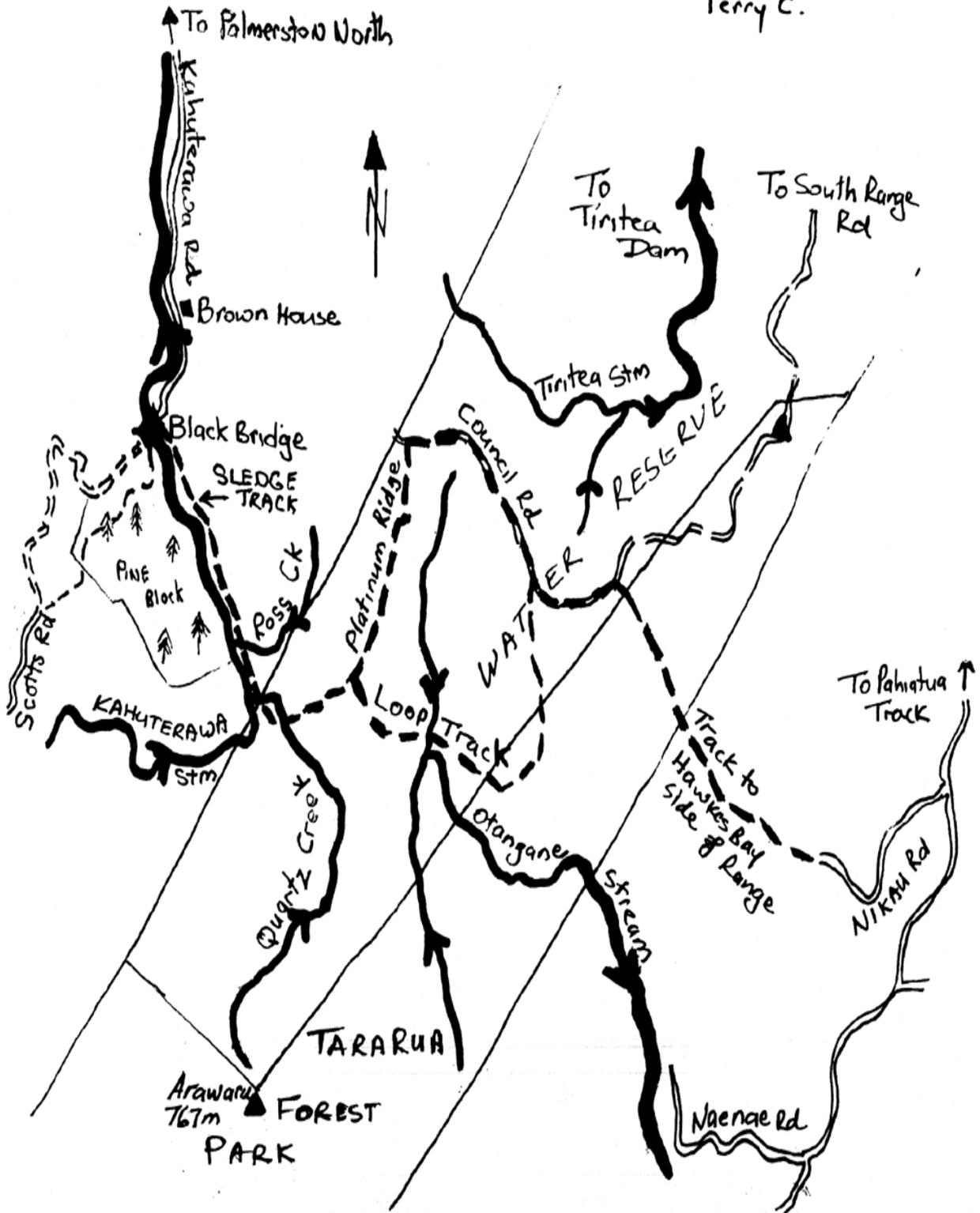
[Photo: Tony Gates]

THE MARLBOROUGH ROCK DAISY

These rather large flowers are very beautiful. They grow in great profusion on rocky areas, some protruding from the most impossible cliffs of the rugged Kaikoura Ranges so are safe from the ravages of the cursed possum and goat. And like many of our native and alpine flora, the Marlborough Rock Daisy adds a great deal to summertime tramping.

KAHUTERAWA - WATER RESERVE PROPOSALS

Terry C.



Kahuterawa Catchment- Turitea Water Reserve proposals track proposals.

[Map by Terry Crippen]

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