

# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

**Newsletter - August 2003**

## CLUB NIGHTS

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

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

**Aug 14 Club Night  
What's Up DoC?**

Tim Gilbertson will give a slide presentation on the trials and tribulations of protecting threatened species from predators.

**Aug 28 Club Night  
Mt Cook Climbing  
Andrew Lynch**

Andrew, although up to his gum boots in calves, is making the time to show some slides and tell a yarn about a climb on Mt. Aoraki/Cook. I believe he even managed to plonk a foot on the top! If you are lucky he might even give a little history on why local and not so local climbers are attracted to this prominent geological mass in the Southern Alps.

**Sept 2 (Tues) Inter-club Quiz (see notices)**

**Sept 11 Landsborough Tramping  
Shaun Barnett**

**Sept 25 Interclub Photo Competition  
Murray Woodcock**

## TRIPS

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

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs                      Technical skills reqd (T)  
Medium (M): 5-6 hrs                  Instructional (I)  
Fit (F): about 8 hrs  
Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

**Aug 2-3 Snowcraft 1                      M, I  
Terry Crippen                              356 3588**  
See July newsletter for details.

**Aug 2-3 Outdoor First Aid Course      I  
Tom Siegenthaler                        357 7237**

This course is for people who signed up for it a week in advance. It runs from Fri 7:30pm till 3 or 4pm Sunday afternoon. Call Tom Siegenthaler on 357 7237 if you have any questions.

**Aug 3 Iron Gates                              M  
Martin Lawrence                        357 1695**

The track follows the Oroua River to Iron Gates Hut, where we'll have lunch. Back out the same way, but a wise old brass monkey advises giving the gorge swim a miss this month. 8am start for this Ruahine ramble.

**Aug 9-10 Totara Flats                        E  
Llew Pritchard                            358 2217**

Meet at 8am for this tramp over Masterton way. We'll either stay in the nice, new, cosy Totara Flats Hut, or in a tent. On Sunday, we could do a loop, coming out via Mountain House.

E-mail articles to [doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz)  
or post to 1 Worsfold Lane, Palm. North  
(by 20<sup>th</sup> of month)

For lots more photos & trips, check out  
[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)



### Portal to the Past

Easter in the Kaimanawa's. An extract **from newsletter No.3, 1966**: "One member becoming separated from the party decided to camp alongside the track, and awoke as the party came along in the dark. He made a very hurried exit from his sleeping bag to avoid being trodden on!"

*"I have not conquered Everest, it has merely tolerated me."*  
Peter Habeler

*"I can't understand why men make all this fuss about Everest – it's only a mountain."*  
Junko Tabei

The solution for last month's crossword:

#### Across

- Now I understand conditions on the mountain. (Ans: Icy)
- "Hide" in the bush. (Ans: Leatherwood)

#### Down

- Silly boy gets burned in camp fire. (Ans: Billy)

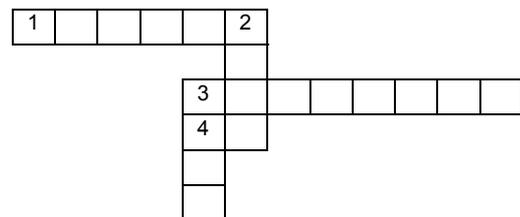
#### CRYPTIC X-WORD #4

#### Across

- Meeting with Helen Clark on the mountain top.
- Everest was the \_\_\_\_\_ of Hillary's career.
- Egmont, for example.

#### Down

- Maths on the mountain top.
- Glimpse the mountain top.



**TRAVEL WARNING FOR KIWI TRAMPERS:** The Colorado State Department of Fish and Wildlife is advising hikers, hunters, fishers and golfers to take extra precautions and keep alert for bears while in the Dillon, Breckenridge and Keystone areas. They advise people to wear noise-producing devices such as little bells on their clothing to alert, but not to startle the bears unexpectedly.

They also advise the carrying of pepper spray in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch for fresh signs of bear activity. People should recognise the difference between black bear and grizzly bear droppings:

Black bear droppings are smaller and contain berries and possibly squirrel fur.

Grizzly bear droppings have little bells in them and smell like pepper spray.

## NOTICES

**Committee Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> to Last Thurs., Photo Competition Results, Inter-club Quiz, Avalanche Awareness, Maps/Booklet For Sale.**

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** can be e-mailed to [doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz) or delivered to 1 Worsfold Lane, PN

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The PNTMC committee now meets on the second to last Thursday of the month (formerly 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs). This change allows the editor to insert late-breaking news, and yet still get this Aug newsletter out at the beginning, rather than the middle, of the month.

### PHOTO COMPETITION RESULTS

Professional photographer Murray Woodcock of Extraeye Photography judged the entries to select the best 3 in each category, and then a show of hands was used to decide the final ranking. Murray then dished out a few tips on what gives a winning pic "the edge," while Warren dished out Kinder Surprises to place-getters. A big thanks to Murray for judging the photos again, and allowing his brains to be picked after the show by aspiring winners of future competitions. As a token of our appreciation, Murray was presented with a bottle of wine courtesy of Liquor King. Next time you Photographers want to take some Schnapps with d' Kamra in the mountains, stock-up at Liquor King.

The winners in each category (slides):

#### NZ Alpine

- 1<sup>st</sup>: The Footstool (Derek Sharp)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: The Fox (Bruce van Brunt)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Mt Tasman (Derek Sharp)

#### Overseas Alpine

- 1<sup>st</sup> equal: Mongolian Vista (Terry Crippen);  
Mongolian Gers (Terry Crippen)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Eagle Peak (Terry Crippen)

#### Overseas People

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Aussie Jokers (Neil Campbell)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lunchtime in Mongolia (Terry Crippen)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Rock & Hard Place (Neil Campbell)

#### NZ Topical

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Sex in the Snow (Tony Gates)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mt Aspiring (Derek Sharp)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Kaweka Challenge (Tony Gates)

#### NZ Natural History

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Rock Plant (Derek Sharp)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Pines (Terry Crippen)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Beech Forest (Tony Gates)

#### NZ Scenic

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Tukituki (Terry Crippen)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mt Hooker (Terry Crippen)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Pureora (Tony Gates)

The winners in each category (prints):

#### NZ Alpine

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Mt Cook (Llew Pritchard)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lake Ohau (Llew Pritchard)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Emerald Lakes (Warren Wheeler)

#### Overseas Alpine

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Bastardylayo (Terry Crippen)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lesotho (Judith Kidd)

#### Scenic NZ

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Sunrise Hut (Warren Wheeler)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Heaphy Track (Elaine Hervé)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Tararuas (Craig Allerby)

#### NZ Fauna

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Tunupo Ice (Warren Wheeler)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kea "Blue Duck" (Llew Pritchard)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Heaphy (Elaine Hervé)

#### Topical NZ

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Walking Up Tasman Glacier (Derek Sharp)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Wharite (Warren Wheeler)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Social Climbers (Yuko Watanabe)

The inter-club photo competition will be held on September 25th. The PNTMC will host it this year.

If you were taking photos at twilight and you saw a trumper sinking in quicksand and you could either save him or photograph the event...what kind of film would you use?

## INTER-CLUB QUIZ

The quiz will be held on Tues, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30pm, at the MTSC club rooms on Airport Drive. Come along and support your club. Teams compete for the Trevor Bissell Memorial Billy, which is on display at Mountain Equipment. We require a PNTMC team. Contact our team leader (Tony, 357 7439) if you want to be in the team.

## AVALANCHE AWARENESS

Now that the snow has started to arrive, its time to remind ourselves about the hazards of avalanches. They don't just happen in the big mountains, they can occur anywhere with a sufficiently unstable snow cover - including the Ruahines. The NZ Mountain Safety Council runs a series of courses on Avalanche Awareness. It is recommended that anybody new to tramping or climbing in snow, snowcraft participants, and even experienced winter trampers attend one of these. They consist of an evening lecture and a field day. There are a number of different dates but the most suitable one to tie in with Snowcraft is:

**Date:** Friday night lecture Aug 22 with the field day Sat 23 or Sun 24.

**Place:** At Whakapapa village and on that side of Mt Ruapehu.

For further details, cost, and to make a booking, contact directly the course organiser: Vern Meyer of Outdoor Experiences, RD 1, Reporoa.

Email: [outdoorexperiences@extra.co.nz](mailto:outdoorexperiences@extra.co.nz)

Be in early since these are popular and numbers are limited.

You could get together with others who are going on this and jack up accom for Friday night at say the motorcamp or the MTSC Lodge. Contact me (Terry, 356-3588) if you need any more info.

Other dates and venues can be found at [www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz).

## WEDNESDAY TRAMPING GROUP

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

## THURSDAY TRAMPERS

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

## GARAGE SALE

To raise funds for the PNTMC, a garage sale will be held in the spring. Unwanted books, kitchenware, toys, tools, CD's, clothes, etc will be collected during the winter. If you have any items you want to get rid of, call Doug on 353 6526.

## TOPOMAPS & GUIDE BOOKS FOR SALE

Unused or hardly used NZMS 260 1:50,000 topomaps: North Island: S26 Carterton, S28 Palliser. South Island: N26 Cobb, N29 St Arnaud, N31 Acheron, K33 Otira, K34 Wilberforce, H35 Franz Joseph, E39 Aspiring, F39 Matukituki. \$5 each (normally \$12.50 retail, or about \$9 with FMC discount).

Also: NZ Mountaineering guide (AGL), Wellington Rock, Arthurs Pass climbing guide. \$6 each. Selling on behalf of Richard Lovell - ex club member. Contact Terry 3563-588 or see me at club night Aug 14th.

## HISTORICAL BOOKLET FOR SALE

"A Chronology of the Tararua & Rimutaka Ranges."

A completely revised 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the above book, with separate information on the history, huts, and events of the two ranges, is now available. (It replaces the earlier edition, available until recently).

Copies may be obtained from the author at \$10 each (incl postage), from:

R.A. Kerr, PO Box 540, Levin. (06-368-4796 home)

## TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS

By ordering topo maps now through the club, you can get a 30% discount off the normal price. Contact Terry on 356 3588.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Mid-winter, No1. Line, Manawatu Gorge, Cattle Ridge, Tunupo, Coppermine Ck.

#### Mid-winter Celebrations, June 21-22 By Christine Cheyne

Thanks to Father Christmas (Warren) for organising this traditional PNTMC event. Joining in the festivities were Liz Morrison (balloon blower extraordinaire), Jenny and Lew Pritchard, Terry Crippen, Judith Kerr, Craig Allerby, Graham Peters, Yuko Watanabe and Christine Cheyne.

It was on track for being the warmest June since 1850 but Matariki was rising so, in a well-established PNTMC tradition, a well-equipped (in more ways than you would imagine) party departed PN for the DOC Base at Kawhatau for "mid-winter" festivities. Those who weren't up to blowing up balloons partook of a high tea on Colenso. Photos will reveal that some were appropriately dressed for the formal occasion that it was, and which demanded a fully laid table with chairs, and of course best linen and china (for tea) and champagne flutes- for the bubbly). Some failed to observe the dress code but *they did have good table manners and know how to hold a tea-cup.*

It might have been very unpromising weather (cool, damp, and very low cloud) but on Colenso there was nearly sunshine (enough to bring out some DOC inspectors) and the mist cleared for glimpses of the ranges to the south.

When we descended from Colenso around 5pm we found additional midwinter revellers had arrived and arrangements for the dinner were well-advanced. Needless to say, we ate well: following a very extensive spread of "nibbles", we tucked into turkey (thanks, Judith), roast vegetables, smoked fish pie, salads, followed by Christmas pudding, icecream, cream, custard and more. Gifts were exchanged and there were kinder surprises all around. Sunday breakfast was equally indulgent: bacon and eggs to accompany the leftovers, and chocolate fondue, as well as real toast (the DOC base at Kawhatau has a generator, and comes equipped with a toaster and fry pan).

Tradition was maintained by Warren and Craig who took a mid-winter dip in the Kawhatau.



Social Climbers

#### No. 1 Line, Pohangina, June 29 By Monica Cantwell

We were Craig Allerby, Barbara Mare, Yuko Watanabe, Duncan Hedderley, Richard Lockett, Elizabeth Ward, Glenis Nielsen, Monica Cantwell and Doug Strachan (leader).

Two cars set off from Foodtown at 9 a.m., with Doug's car picking me up from 1070 Napier Road. The day did not look at all promising at the start, but certainly improved as the day progressed. Setting off at around 10 a.m., we climbed through some lovely bush, with Doug pointing out Rimu, Tawa etc, especially one huge Rimu tree certainly worth a stop, to view.

We encountered a sharp rock face which was much easier going up than coming down. The middle section of the bush was quite dry and we went as far as we could {till the track ended} .

Looking down from the high point we wondered which valley we had walked up, { via the matanganui Stream } in January. It was a fast trip down, with Doug telling us to look out for a punga which someone had carved out...very impressive.



Petrified Tramper

Arrived back at the cars about 1.30 p.m. A total of 3 1/2 hours. Now the most interesting part !!!!!!!!!.... Who ate what at the Waterford ??? ... Doug had Iced water and a Caramel Sunday.... Craig a Citrus Slice with his Cappuccino. Barbara sipped a Late. Yuko enjoyed a Berry Smoothie. Duncan some Garlic Bread in a basket. Richard consumed a Chicken and Mushroom Focaccia. Glenis and Elizabeth both had a Panini with their glass of ale. Monica settled for a glass of cider. Don't you all wish you had partaken? Many thanks Doug for a lovely day, enjoyed by us all.



Slime mould (No. 1 Line)

## Manawatu Gorge Track, July 6 By Elaine Hervé

Yuko Watanabe, Monica Cantwell, Anja Schold,  
Elaine Hervé (leader)

The worst southerly storm 'for decades' occurred at the right time to make this usually unremarkable walk memorable.

We awoke to a hard frost and snow on the low hills around Palmerston North. The late start of 9:30 meant the worst of the early cold had gone. As usual, we started at the Ashhurst end and found the stream higher than usual, but we made our way up without getting any feet wet. There was early disappointment at not seeing any snow as we climbed up. The first indication of snow was the large amount of water falling from the trees with unusual tinkling sound. We initially resisted, and then one by one we put on our raincoats to protect us from the falling water, snow and ice, which came down in short-lived waterfalls, and sometimes big dollops. The bright winter sunshine added to the beauty of the wet bush.

We could not appreciate the quantity of snow until we reached the first of the view points and found ourselves standing in several centimeters of snow. Snow was precariously balanced on leaves and branches, and Wharite glistened white. As we continued to climb up, we came across continued blockages on the path where often large branches had collapsed under the weight of snow.

Using Monica's good local knowledge, we took the side track to view the windmills. I could not resist the temptation, and popped a short way over the fence to get a better view of the windmills. Unfortunately, for Anja, she received a small cut climbing over the fence and, *after many hours of being carried in my pack, my first aid kit earned its keep.*

We had lunch at the final view point over-looking Woodville, sitting on our coats in about 15cm of snow, enjoying the warm sunshine.

From this point, we noticed a sudden change in the bush. The dripping from the canopy stopped, and evidence of snow disappeared. The rest of the walk was uneventful, except for meeting 3 men puzzling over maps and compasses... maybe we should have stopped and helped out? At the end, we were met by Monica's husband who kindly took us for coffee at the café, and then back to our car.

## Cattle Ridge, July 12

### By Dave Grant

We were Dave Grant (PNTMC) and John Crawford (MTSC).

It was cold, damp and still dark when John and I headed out of Palmy for Eketahuna and Putara road end. By the time we had donned our gear and were heading up the track a light rain was misting down. But from then on it just got better. We cruised in to Roaring Stag in just under two and a half hours, sighting *the odd handkerchief of snow hiding amongst the undergrowth* as we rounded the Herepai turnoff. Weak shafts of sunlight stabbed down at us through the impressive rimu stands of the Ruamahanga terraces, and the air smelled strongly of their damp pine scent.

Roaring Stag hut looked rather bedraggled, even more so from the inside, so we hunkered down outside for a snack before heading across the Ruamahanga swing bridge and up the steep slope on the other side. It took us about an hour and a half to reach Cattle Ridge hut. From the bush line we encountered more and more snow, the cover becoming complete by the time we reached the tops although no thicker than 18 inches even in the deepest drifts. The cold south easterly brought in light showers of corn snow. Time at the hut for food and poring through the hut book – first dated 1998 so not a frequent destination. But good to see a number of PNTMC entries (and MTSC, in deference to my travelling companion!!). We headed back down the hill about 1.30pm. Spent a moment looking north to sight Herepai hut just below the cloud with glimpses of the Manawatu to the left and the Wairarapa on the other side, and greeted a young couple puffing their way uphill. Wow - two lots of folks to Cattle Ridge hut in one day. Then it was down, down, down. Smoke was hanging over Roaring Stag and filling the hut interior as we poked our heads through the doorway to say gudday to a hunter and his dog. Back on the track and up the hill towards Herepai junction. Surely not the same track we had lightly strode this morning? This one seems sooo much longer, but no, finally there is the junction and now it's all downhill back to the road end. It is a bit after 5 when we finally reach the road. The van is patiently waiting.

## Tunupo, July 19-20

### By Graham Peters

The team was - Yuko Watanabe, Jenny McCarthy, Craig Allerby, Graham Peters (leader).

The plan was to do a loop Iron Gates Hut, Ngamoko Range, Tunupo, with the direction being determined by the weather. As luck would have it, the Saturday clashed with a Mountain Safety Council 1st Aid re-validation course so the plan changed with Yuko and Craig walking in to Iron Gates on the Saturday afternoon, and Jenny (who was also on the course) and myself walking in on Saturday evening. The weather forecast for the weekend was not that flash, so when it was a fine day on Saturday it seemed like we might have missed our only chance for a good day on the tops. At the carpark, there was only Craig's car - unlikely to be anyone else at the hut so we'll get a bed. As we were walking in it started raining. 'Oh well' I thought, 'so much for the good weather.' Still it was a cheerful sight when the candlelit windows of the hut came into view. True to his word Craig had the fire going, a brew on, and Mallowpuff's for supper - top man.

Poking my nose out of the door next morning; stars, moon, calm, a stunning day. The God's smile on the deserving. We were all fed, watered, and abluted and underway at 8.00am on the initially steep climb to the Ngamoko Range. As we ascended we were treated to glimpses of a winter wonderland on the Whanahuia and Ruahine Ranges to the north. Snow was on the ground well down in the bush but fortunately it was firm enough that we weren't constantly breaking through it. As we made our way up the ridge to the Ngamoko Range, there was a little bit of a breeze, which combined with the cold air temperature persuaded us to put parka's, hats, and gloves on. Good move because when we got on the range proper the wind was unpleasantly strong. Good views but it was very much a case of head down and let's get along here as fast as possible. Found a reasonably sheltered place for a brief lunch before the final push to Tunupo. Yuko wasn't interested in taking a summit photo so headed straight off down the ridge to Heritage Lodge. It was surprising how quickly the wind intensity fell when we dropped down. We had a discussion about whether the wind coincidentally dropped when we did but no-one was keen to go back up to find out. Besides, if someone had gone up it would have started blowing again anyway. Contd...

The walk down that long ridge was improved by, as we had a break, Yuko telling us that we were at 800m, significantly lower than we thought we were. This meant that we were back at the cars by 4.00pm, having had against the weather forecast odds, a good trip.

## Coppermine Creek , July 20 By Ian Harding

Ian Harding (Leader), Elaine Herve, Anya Scholz, Monica Cantwell, Carol Brungar, Barbara Mare, Stan Mackowiak.

Converging at the road-end around 9.30a.m. saw our group of able-bodied souls keen to experience yet another day of brilliant Southern Hawke's Bay weather and scenic views.

Following introductions etc. we made our way rather briskly to the old mine-site, stopping briefly to observe the rare sight of *two Paradise ducks perched high-up in a large Rimu tree*, a good photo opportunity for those who brought cameras.

Upon reaching the mine-site, the writer (overloaded as usual) produced a book (1.5 kg) containing a photograph of the actual mine entrance as it appeared, complete with pioneers, in 1890. Rather hard to envisage its existence with what remains today. Next Stop the munitions magazine on the stream edge where its inhabitants, namely cave wetas, were found to be considerably smaller than those viewed on previous occasions.

While remedial work had been done on the main track, broken branches and occasional up-rooted trees on the Loop track clearly evidenced the resulting damage caused by recent snow-fall in the region. Much of the debris was small enough to be cleared as we passed; however, some proved too substantial to be moved, making passage at times challenging.

A lunch-break at the Loop track summit where, in usual trampers style, a fair amount of healthy discussion on a diverse range of subjects transpired, all the while enjoying the therapeutic benefits of the sun's rays. Reality soon prevailed however as we encountered a bone-chilling southerly wind on descent, via farmland, to the carpark, reminding us that it was still winter after all.

Departing from convention i.e. ice-creams in Woodville, saw the group instead reconvening at the Gorge Café, concluding what upon general consensus was considered an "enjoyable day".

### The Natives are Getting Restless

In the May newsletter, I wrote about *Tradescantia*, a weed that is invading our native bush. While most of us are aware of some other invasive species, such as gorse, old man's beard, and ragwort, it is less well known that some of our native plants have become weeds in other countries. It seems NZ isn't the only country that made the mistake of deliberately introducing species that subsequently got out of hand.

Our beautiful Pohutukawa (that Kiwis working for "Project Crimson" are planting in NZ), has become a problem weed in South Africa, where it is known as "NZ bottlebrush."

A flax industry was established in Hawaii, but nowadays our flax is considered a weed that competes with their natives. They also have trouble with our karaka, thanks to aerial sowing (for reforestation) of the seeds in 1929. Manuka is another invasive species over there.

In California, cabbage trees, poroporo, karo, ngaio (very invasive), piripiri (bidibid/Acaena), Houhere (lacebark) are all classed as invasive weeds.

Closer to home, our sedges, such as *Carex testaceae*, have become pest species in Tasmania.

Aside from plants, our flatworms are misbehaving in Britain, as is a starfish, the New Zealand cushion star (*Patiriella regularis*), in Tasmanian harbours... but that's another story.

Ed.

My mother started tramping five miles a day when she was 60. She's 97 now and we have no idea where she is.

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