



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

## Newsletter - September 2005

### CLUB NIGHTS

*Club nights are on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friend's Hall, 227 College Street, at 7:45pm sharp. All welcome! At the club night: Please sign the visitor's book.*

**8 Sep Club Night– Trekking in Peru**  
Fancy a spot of high altitude trekking? Anne and Martin Lawrence did. Their presentation includes their recent two week Alpamayo Circuit with the FMC Travel Club, plus Machu Pichu and other exotic places they visited.

#### **19 Sep (Mon) Interclub Photo Competition**

Only the top images from PNTMC and MTSC club competitions will be ranked against those from MUAC, the host club this year. Come along and see the best of the best. Venue is the AgHort Building Massey University, at 7.00pm.

**22 Sep Committee Meeting (Dave Grant's place)**

#### **29 Sep Interclub Quiz**

Don't know much about anything? Come along and find out mountains of amazing stuff. Reckon you know a fair bit about things alpine and tramping? Join the PNTMC team or come along and help keep the referee honest. PNTMC will be hosting teams from MTSC, MUAC, Mountain Equipment and PNTMC - come along for a fun night. Contact Warren Wheeler 356-1998.

Articles to Lance [gray.family@actrix.co.nz](mailto:gray.family@actrix.co.nz) or post to 37 Parata Street, Palmerston North (by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month)

### TRIPS

**Sep 3-4 Howletts/Otumore M**  
**Heather Purdie 354-0448**

Join Heather for something other than Sawtooth Ridge! (don't let Tony hear that) Stay at the Ruahines favourite hut: Howletts, and use some of the coal paid for by the club. Pray for a cold night. Contact Heather for what promises to be a fresh approach.

**Sep 4 Longview Hut E/M**  
**Peter Wiles 358-6894**

Join Peter for this easy/medium tramp in the Eastern Ruahines north of Dannevirke. The drive itself is very satisfying as much of the climbing is already done for you! Has got café potential written all over this one. Contact Peter for further details.

**Sep 10-12 Tapuaenuku Climbing F**  
**Alasdair Noble 356-1094**

Spaces are filling up as news that Bruce van Brunt will not be attending. Surely there will not be four years in a row of bad weather! Get in quick for your walk up the Hodder River and its 55 crossings. Please contact Alasdair for further details.

**Sep 10 Sheridan Creek E/M**  
**Richard Lockett 323-0948**

Given the success of the No.1 Pohangina Line trip this promises to be another exciting new adventure. Expect Richard to use imagery of the Lord of the Rings to go places you might never have dared. Please contact Richard for further details. Guaranteed to rain.

**Sep 17-18 Mitre (Tararuas) E&F**  
**Warren Wheeler 356-1998**

Join Warren for one of two options in this superb area just west of Masterton in the eastern Tararuas. You can cruise into Mitre Flats on the Saturday and sunbathe for two days, or you can also climb Mitre on Sunday morning. No tea and toast in bed for this hardy lot. A superb tramping climb with no dramas. Return via the Barra track or given the weather wander down the Waingawa itself. There should be plenty of company with Malcolm's party on the Sunday.

**Sep 18 Mitre Flats M/F**  
**Malcolm Parker 357-5203**

An excellent wander up the Barra track, next to the Waingawa River to Mitre Flats Hut for lunch, then return the same way. Good opportunity to catch up with the sunbathers from Warren's trip. Please contact Malcolm for further details.

**Sep 17 Avalanche Awareness M**  
**Heather Purdie 354-0448**

Heather is organising this important course for new and not so new climbers as well as the most prone: backcountry skiers and snowboarders. Always a fun weekend given that there will be a day's climbing on the Sunday. There is a fee for the course so please contact Heather for further details. Heather's shout at Hot Lava's.

**Sep 18 Ruapehu Climbing M/T**  
**Heather Purdie 354-0448**

Join Heather on the Sunday for a day's climbing. Turn this into a long weekend and going skiing on the Monday as many have done in the past! Please contact the busy Heather Purdie for further details.

**Sep 24-25 Mangatepopo Rock Climb T**  
 (To be re-scheduled)

**Sep 25 Herbertville Beach Walk E/M**  
**Duncan Hedderley 354 6905**

An equinoctial East Coast experience. Native guide Ian Harding has offered to navigate us to Herbertville, where we will walk along the beach to Cape Turnagain and back again. Congregate at the Countdown carpark 8am

**Trip participants:**

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Countdown carpark. A charge for transport will be collected on the day. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance. For general info, or any suggestions for future tramps, please contact Terry Crippen (356-3588), Janet Wilson (329-4722) or Tony Gates (357-7439).

Trips

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs      Technical skills reqd (T)

Medium (M): 5-6 hrs      Instructional (I)

Fit (F): about 8 hrs Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

Trip leaders:

Please advise a trip coordinator, as soon as possible, if you will be unable to run your trip as scheduled. This is so that alternatives can be arranged, put in the newsletter, or passed on at club night.

\*\*\* OVERDUE TRIPS \*\*\*

Enquiries to: Mick Leyland (358 3183), Terry Crippen (356 3588), or Janet Wilson (329 4722)

**Photo Competition Results**

**NZ Alpine – Slides/E-pics**

1. Hooker Valley - Bruce van Brunt
2. Mt Hikurangi - Tony Gates
3. Fox Glacier - Bruce van Brunt

**NZ Scenic**

1. Hunterville Lakes - Trevor King
2. Swingbridge - Neil Campbell
3. Hunterville rainbow - Neil Campbell

**Natural History**

1. Mt Cook Lily - Bruce van Brunt
2. Tree near Roaring Stag - Trevor King
3. Waterfall in the Wilkin - Terry Crippen

**NZ Topical**

1. Shadow climber - Bruce van Brunt
2. Southern Man - Neil Campbell
3. Editor's Legs - Trevor King

**NZ Topical - Prints**

1. Sunrise Hut Group - Trevor King
2. Underwater Photograph - Trevor King
3. SAR chopper shot - Warren Wheeler

**NZ Scenic – Prints**

1. Colenso forest – Penny Abercrombie
2. Pouakai Swamp – Warren Wheeler
3. Top Marapoea – Trevor King

**NZ Alpine – Print**

1. Douglas Nevé – Bruce van Brunt
2. Aspiring weather – Bruce van Brunt
3. Fog on Longview – Trevor King

**Overseas Alpine**

1. Damp lunch – Terry Crippen

**Overseas People**

1. Dolomites – Terry Crippen

**NZ Natural History**

1. Subalpine veggie – Trevor King

**Best in Show**

1. Shadow climber – Bruce van Brunt

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## NOTICES

**Hello from Maree Limpus, Extended labour weekend trip, New lodge at Roaring Stag, Interclub Photo Competition, Welcome to Trevor King**

### **Hello from Maree Limpus**

Say hi to every one from me. My new email is [maree\\_limpus@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:maree_limpus@yahoo.co.nz). If anyone is heading to England I would love to hear from you and maybe go on an adventure (And even if they are not coming over, I would still love to hear from people!). Thankyou Tony (Gates) for passing this on.

### **Extended Labour Weekend 21-25 Oct Mt Whanokao, Raukumara Range -Terry Crippen**

After a successful Easter climb of Mt Hikurangi, an attempt is planned for Whanokao (Honokawa), slightly lower than Hikurangi but more impressive, less accessible, and very seldom climbed let alone crossed over or traversed. So we will give it a go, either an ascent by the "easiest way", or a cross over or traverse (wishful thinking). Travel up evening of Thurs, stay in Gisborne overnight then head up-the-coast Friday. Return to PN on the Tuesday. There are other possibilities if Whanokao not on. Fit Grade. Let Craig Allerby or Tony Gates know if interested. Terry is leading this but he is away till early Oct.

### **Hopkins Valley Spotlight 15th-18th Jan 2006 onwards. -Terry Crippen**

The club plans to run an extended "tramping and climbing spotlight" based around the Hopkins Valley, at the head of Lake Ohau in the South Island. (Lake Ohau is the next lake south of Mt Cook's Lake Pukaki.) Huxley lodge is booked for 3 nights, with people arriving on Sunday 15th. (Run by Twizel School, the cost is \$11 pppn.) Find your own way south. You can drive to the lodge. Otherwise Twizel is on the main bus route, with services from/to Christchurch and elsewhere. Transport can then be arranged if necessary to the lodge.

The next couple of days can be spent on day trips, relaxing, fishing, whatever. Then Terry will be taking a 5-6 day Temple, Sth Huxley, Nth Huxley, Broderick Pass and back tramp (Grade M/F). Then he plans to run a climbing trip for another week. There is unlimited scope to do your own thing for other tramps of various grades; a shorter Nth to Sth Temple circuit; up the Hopkins and into the Elcho valley, the Dassler Pinnacles on the Newman Range, or just camping up valley, etc. Terry has lots of info for ideas. See also "South Island Weekend Tramps"

by Nick Groves, etc. Combine all this as part of your annual spell down south, or make it a good excuse to head south if you haven't lately! Let Terry know now so he can start planning details; 3563-588, email; [bluesky\\_tramping@clear.net.nz](mailto:bluesky_tramping@clear.net.nz)

### **A new Lodge at Roaring Stag**

DoC have built a number of new huts over the past few years, and many of these have been in the Tararua Ranges. Most have replaced others, such as Waiopahu and Totara Flats, and all are part of the core network of DoC huts. There is a brand new hut now (still passionately named as a lodge by the Deerstalkers) right where the old Roaring Stag Lodge once stood, beside the upper Ruamahanga River. It utilises standard DoC designs, and is very cosy. It would be a good spot for a day tramp, a launching base for longer Tararua tramps, poking around for a deer or trout, or just relaxing in the bush. I'm sure that the new Roaring Stag Lodge will prove as popular as the other good DoC huts within a day's walk.

The original Roaring Stag Lodge was built during 1961- 1962 by the Wellington branch of the NZ Deerstalkers. They carried in all building materials- quite a contrast to current helicopter methods. The first lodge was well used and appreciated, and at the opening, many of its original builders and regular residents were present. At the opening, officiated by DoC staff, the Masterton Mayor, and iwi, many people enjoyed the hospitality provided as part of the ceremony. As a late guest, I was pleasantly surprised at both the quantity and quality of the refreshments- thank you organisers.

### **Interclub Photocomp**

Will be held at the Massey Ag Hort Building (see attached) from 7pm on Monday the 19th of Sept. Each club may enter their best three pictures in each category. We are also having a comedy category (any digitally enhanced or natural comedy) in ours and although we won't have prizes at the interclub if people are keen to bring these pics it would be great (Geoff Walker).

### **Welcome to Trevor King**

Welcome to new club member Trevor King. Trevor is a fine addition given his already impressive photography skills.



Looking decidedly brisk at Sunrise Hut (Nigel Gregory)

## TRIP REPORTS

### Kelly Knight Hut, Otokota Hut, Herepai Hut, Sunrise and Beyond, “Surstromming” it at the Stag,

#### July 9-10 Kelly Knight by Matthew Penn

We set off for the day in two groups, I was with Graham and Janet, and we had a fair measure of optimism in our Toyota that the weather would break and we would be able to explore some snow.

That certainly seemed to be the case when we left the Pohangina as it was such a lovely day. The closer we got to the Ruahines, the more it seemed apparent that we may need to consider our options for walking into Kelly Knight. When we met up with the rest of the party, Llew & company, the weather had by now become miserable – suffice to say it was typical winter weather.

Picking that the weather was going to hold or even close in we headed straight for the hut. The track was in a reasonable condition, but there were a couple of sections where it became quite

narrow. The ground under foot was heavily sodden with all the recent rain. Janet noticed how, even though we knew there four ahead of us, there was little sign of them on the track – the ground was almost like a mattress springing back (but there was the odd sign of deer having crossed the track!).

The mist was hanging tight to the walls of the Ruahines as we headed in toward the hut, but we got a great view of it from high up on the track as we neared our destination. The swing bridge was in good repair, and someone must have contacted OSH to tell them the rope around the boulder on the hut side of the bridge was a little risky. There’s now a chain that may have previously had an anchor on the end of it to safely guide you around!

The hut is nice and close to the road end so it didn’t take us long at all to get there where Llew had all in hand for getting the fire going. The hut

was cosy as the weather rapidly closed in, but it became apparent there was a strong draft from the fire across the top of the roof and out the eave – right in front of Janet causing her to slow down a bit!

She might have needed some of Mick's self made coffee, which could also be a feasible option as a fuel alternative in the current environment of rising petrol costs! It was a lovely blend with a real kick (so you might need a good filter if putting it in your car – contact Mick). The coffee was a prelude to the port which put a warm rich glow on the faces of all who partook...

Having seen the signs of deer on the way in, and with a trip to the snow now a no-show, Llew and Graham headed off fully refreshed on Mick's super charged coffee in search of fresh venison!

Fully expecting the spoils of their trials and tribulations, we kept the fire going for them, while Janet set about testing the radio she had brought with her. It was the Final Test of the All Blacks and The Lions tour, and Janet braved the elements (it soon became apparent there was little useable reception in the hut) to find just where she had to stand outside, and which way to hold her arms and legs for optimum reception.



A winter's day at Kelly Knight (Matt Penn)

Llew and Graham returned not having seen any live venison let alone having needed to even fire at one, so we set about dinner. With that out of the way it was rapidly drawing near kick-off and the weather had of course worsened even more.

***Janet put up a sterling effort, it was a game of two storms and the weather was winter on the night!***

The weather had of course closed in so much that reception was spasmodic at best, and the entertainment of the night was receiving the points score relayed from Janet, and trying to determine who was winning from when we knew what the All Blacks had and what the Lions had the last time both scores came through!

There was quite some discussion on just how many penalties you could accumulate with tries and conversions to get the latest score, and just

what Tana could have done to have featured in so many yellow cards (that we could hear anyway!). All in all a good game, with some expert commentary and after match analysis. We finally drifted off to sleep on our lovely mattresses freshly supplied by DOC, and did of course wake to more inclement weather.

We set about the task of breakfast, and after clearing up headed back out from our little corporate box in the Ruahine's. We all rendezvoused again in Kimbolton for coffee and refreshment, and a game on the Round Pool table! We were: Mick & Marion, Leyland, Llew & Jenny Pritchard, Graham Peters & Janet Wilson, and Matthew Penn

### **30-31 July Otokota Hut by Graham Peters**

Close your eyes, really, CLOSE YOUR EYES. Imagine, - the sun's shining, warm on your back. You're sitting, nestled into the dry tussock, with uninterrupted views of the huge expanse of the Mokai Patea Range, a little snow on distant peaks. Its lunchtime on the 30th July.

That sums it up really, a fantastic day. We'd started from Kawhatau Base, climbed steadily up to Colenso Trig and continued on up to top of the range. We then loitered over lunch for awhile before dropping to the hut via the Bruce Ridge. This ridge is clear of bush to quite a low level. We arrived at the hut mid afternoon, absolutely dry!

The hut's well situated in a grassy clearing, and has a nice new fire. Shame the door had been left open so the possums could go in and party. The mess was soon swept up.

Next day we decided to return via the alternative track to the North to investigate the large slip. It is indeed a large slip but can be easily bypassed by climbing steeply beside it (on the downstream side of it). There is a taped route. Above this the route is straightforward. A bit of wind and drizzle meant it was parkas on at the bushline.

*It was interesting to encounter a herd of cows as we hit the tops - you are actually on private land at this point.*

Heading Sth from here, we had lunch at the same spot as the day before, having completed a circle. After this it was back down the hill to the car - a bit of rain then didn't spoil what was a great WINTER weekend tramp.

We were Graham Peters (leader), Craig Allerby and Janet Wilson.

### **7 August Herepai Hut by Neil Campbell**

We left Palmerston North at 8am. The drive to the start of this walk in the Tararuas involves leaving State Highway 2 at Eketahuna and then proceeding to the end of Putara Road. This road is unsealed but in good condition. We left the cars at a bit before 9.30am. The day was not particularly cold but overcast with the threat of rain. The track to Herepai Hut is well looked after although it is little muddy in places. The track crosses two swing bridges before a steep climb up to a ridge. The walk along the ridge to the hut is very pleasant. The trees allow trampers to be well protected even in pretty nasty weather.

We reached the hut well before midday and had lunch. Because of the conditions we did not go any further than the hut. On fine days it is certainly worth going a bit further because the views can be excellent. On the return journey we met Tony Gates at the long swing bridge. Tony had attended the opening of the new Roaring Stag Lodge the day before. Back at the cars we changed into some clean dry clothing. On the drive back to Palmerston North we stopped at the Black Stump Cafe in Pahiatua. We arrived back in Palmerston North at about 4.45pm. The party consisted of: Neil Campbell (leader), Duncan Hedderly, Barbara Mare, and Malcolm Parker.

### **14<sup>th</sup> August - Sunrise Hut and Beyond by John Feeney**

Despite the forecast of a "Southerly change" on the way, eight keen trampers could not resist Nigel Gregory's invitation to explore the area beyond Sunrise Hut in the Ruahines. We were all buckled in at Countdown, leaving only two minutes after our scheduled 7.30 am departure ready for a full day of tramping. We had a pleasant trip through the Gorge, then across the very green farming country of Hawkes Bay to begin walking shortly after 9. am.

The track although muddy was in great condition. Mist, (covering areas of snow) hung around the upper slopes of the Ruahines. Walking in sunshine and only a bit of wind, we had a pleasant walk up the zigzag track to the hut. The excellent standard of the track in this area provided a chance to absorb the atmosphere of being in a beach forest. As we drew closer to the top predictably the wind became very gusty and it got misty and much, much colder! There was some snow on the ground. Surprisingly for a "smoker" Mick was the first to reach the hut with

the rest of us arriving within 10 minutes. By this time it was only 11am, what a fit lot we were.

We enjoyed the comfort of the newly renovated hut to eat our early lunch. *Richard somehow managed to get the new gas heater going.* After discussions about what tramping beyond Sunrise actually entailed Llew had a bright idea of heading out to Armstrong Saddle. Four of us headed out with him to the high point of the ridge immediately behind the hut. After finding the obvious (it was sleeting and the wind was so strong we would have been blown to the ground) we hastened back to the safety of the hut. One member in our group commented she was so cold if we didn't go back soon, she would go by herself.

There was to be no going beyond Sunrise on this trip, we were happy to follow the leader back down the mountain! The weather continued to close in and within minutes of reaching the cars it poured down. Wonderful timing, we had avoided most of the extremes of the weather and enjoyed a good physical workout and lots of laughs. We stopped for the mandatory hot drink in Dannevirke on the way home. Thanks to our leader Nigel Gregory, the rest of us were- Richard Lockett, Barbara Mare-, Mick and Marion Leyland, John Feeney, Llew and Jenny Pritchard.

### 23-24 July – “Surstromming” it at the Stag by Anja Scholz

A leisurely start from the Countdown carpark meant we hit the track after 10:30, and took our time ambling along the river and climbing to the junction, where we stopped for lunch. While the clouds were rushing overhead and suggesting that the weather was doing its usual assault on Cattle Creek Hut (e.g. huffing and puffing and blowing the house down), it was quite pleasant in the bush, and we reached the NEW! IMPROVED! Roaring Stag Hut in time for an early afternoon tea. A thorough inspection revealed that there is ALWAYS space for more pegs / nails to hang stuff on, but this abode will certainly draw a bigger crowd than the previous – dare I call it hut? -

Thankfully, Dave Grant had on the previous day had convinced a group of 10 keen trampers to NOT test the new Roaring Stag hut that night, so we ended up with the hut to ourselves which was a bonus ☺

With a good assortment of magazines, we whiled away the afternoon which had become a bit showery, and got a really good fire going for the

evening. The evening meal promised to be another one of fabled Swedish treats that Warren loads up on when overseas. Ahem. Warren loosely translated the name on the label of the can - “surstromming” - as “fermented fish”. Enough said ?



On the front porch of the Stag.

Opening the can outside was the first precaution taken, and the ensuing pleasant aroma made our eyes water, and did nearly make the possums drop dead out of their trees. Our merry round then partook of “surstromming” elaborately arranged on pita-bread with potato mash and red onion.

While some non-printable comments unintentionally left the mouths of gourmets, all but Terry were polite enough to brave a second round of the delicacy. Having heroically survived this, we then did not want to deprive Warren of the remaining half can of his Swedish delight – however, not even this lover of all things Swedish could bring himself to lick the plate clean. HmHm !! As a wise precaution Warren also provided some green ginger wine, which was utilized as a most welcome mouthwash. The dessert in form of “bloeboeren” soup – blueberry soup – rated several stars higher in the Michelin Guide of Swedish delicatessen. (It was awful – Ed!)

After a cosy night we made a slow start (after all this had been touted as an easy trip), and all but Trevor and me decided to jazz up the “easy” with a look at the “hidden lake” which they decided should feature in some future trip. We packed up and made our way back to the cars – it was getting colder by then, and the tops looked not too pleasant again – and the Eketahuna Café for Flat White & Co. It was a fairly uneventful easy trip, however with unforgettable, and unfortunately unrepressable, lingering memories of Sweden.

PS: Warren will shortly return from yet another sojourn to Northern Scandinavia, and aren't we all looking forward to more Swedish cuisine ! We were: Trevor King, Lance Gray, Terry Crippen, Craig Allerby, Warren Wheeler and trip leader Anja Scholz.

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