



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - October 2006

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.

12 Oct	Club Night Alasdair Noble Gourmet Challenge
	Come and show off your best tramping main course. A competition for cooks. Arrive at 475 Albert St. at 7.30 pm armed with your dry ingredients, a billy to cook in and a stove. Your billy and ingredients will be weighed and then cooking will begin at 7.45pm. and you will have up to 45 mins to cook. Water will be provided but nothing else. Your meal is expected to feed two people for one night. See Notices for further details.
19 Oct	Committee Meeting
26 Oct	Club Night Kahurangi Spotlight Terry Crippen/Anja Scholz
	Kahurangi National Park or, Northwest Nelson to a number of us, is an absolute gem in many ways. Terry and Anja in separate trips will illustrate the wonderful diversity of plant and bird life, aside from the excellent tramping that make up this park. Personally, it was a thrill to finally see <i>Powelliphanta traversi</i> (native land snail) in their natural habitat as I have never been lucky enough to spot them locally. A night not to be missed.

Articles to Lance gray.family@actrix.co.nz or post to 37 Parata Street, Palmerston North (by 20th of the month).

TRIPS

- Oct 1** **Stanfield Hut** **E/M**
Malcolm Parker **357-5203**
 Stanfield Hut is the ideal Sunday day trip with its cruisy wander up the Tamaki Stream to the hut. The return has the option of a short climb and another groovy wander down the alternative track. The weather cannot spoil this trip too easily so get hold of Malcolm and get into it.
- Oct 8** **Mt Thompson** **E/M**
(Manakau)
Steven Liddall **357-6978**
 A rarely visited track in behind one of those places you roar past at 109 kph on your way to Wellington. Mt Thompson is hardly a mountain at 711 metres but appears to provide a few fun options should participants get carried away with the day. Please contact Steven for leaving times from the Countdown car-park for what promises to be a new experience for many.
- Oct 8** **Ngauruhoe** **F/T**
Warren Wheeler **356-1998**
 Join Warren for another assault on the western face of Mt Ngauruhoe from the Mangatepopo road-end. No shortage of snow and ice to practice your skills. Ice-axe and crampons absolutely essential so get round to Micks if you need to hire this. Leaving 6.30am from the Countdown carpark for a value for money day.

NOTICES

Request for new (or recycled) Newsletter Editor

It has been nearly two years looking after the PNTMC newsletter so it is time for a change. Anyone who is interested should contact President Wheeler for a person specification and job description. Remuneration package not available at time of writing. I will continue till someone is ready to give it a go or is press-ganged.

Cheers
Lance

Club Night 12 Oct - Gourmet Challenge

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Three judges will score each meal on:

1. Quality - Taste / Smell
2. Suitability for a tramping meal (energy supply etc)
3. The meals will be ranked by weight (lightest is best)

To give a mark out of 100

This mark will be norm referenced, scaled and the "fiddle factor" applied so that a winner and runners up will be announced. (Note none of this namby pamby achieved, merit and excellence stuff.).

Afterwards there should be an opportunity for the competitors and spectator to try the offerings.

If you cannot supply a cooker give Alasdair a call (356 1094) and he will try to organise one for you. If anyone wants to cook on a wood fire please let me know.

Club Photo Competition Results:

Digital E-pics

NZ Scenic:

1. Ruakituri Wilderness – Martin Lawrence;
2. Maharahara – Bruce van Brunt;
3. Lake Middleton – Alasdair Noble

NZ Alpine:

1. Ngauruhoe - Bruce van Brunt;
2. First light, Mt Cook - Bruce van Brunt;
3. Whitcombe Peaks - Tony Gates

NZ Natural History:

1. Fungi – Martin Lawrence;
2. Bush Robin – Terry Crippen;
3. Mt Cook Lilies – Bruce van Brunt

NZ Topical:

1. Tararua Navigators – Tony Gates;
2. Traversing a Glacier on Mt Cook – Bruce van Brunt;
3. Dang! 90 mile beach – Bruce van Brunt

Overseas Scenic:

1. Cerro Torre – Tony Gates;
2. Allgauer Alps – Terry Crippen;
3. Donkasa Monastery, South Korea – Bruce Van Brunt

Overseas People:

1. Chef at the Refuge – Tony Gates;
2. Sign Reader -Terry Crippen;
3. Torre Tourist – Tony Gates

Prints

NZ Scenic:

- 1 Marapea Forks Track – Warren Wheeler,
- 2 Waterfall – Trevor King,
- 3 Putangarua Pinnacles – Warren Wheeler

NZ Alpine:

- 1 High Camp Annette Plateau – Terry Crippen,
- 2 Howletts Hut – Warren Wheeler,
- 3 Beyond Maungahuka – Warren Wheeler

NZ Natural History:

- 1 Fern – Trevor King,
- 2 Leaves – Trevor King,
- 3 Alpine Flower Underfoot – Warren Wheeler

NZ Topical:

- 1 Girdleston Gully – Terry Crippen,
- 2 Which way up – Warren Wheeler,
- 3 Takapari Road Snow – Warren Wheeler.

Overseas Alpine:

- 1. Summit Ridge, Triglau – Terry Crippen
(Best in Show)

The winning e-pic entries were decided by popular vote from three finalists in each category as selected by our guest judge Udo Von Mulert. Winning prints were then chosen by Udo as the e-pic winners basked in their glory.

Udo focussed his experienced Camera Club eye on the entries and his carefully considered comments and tips on improving our photos were enlightening and much appreciated.

Prizes included gift vouchers and discount vouchers from our sponsors this year - thanks to E-pics Photo and Digital, Foto First, and Bruce Watt Photography.

We have clearly moved into the Digital Age with e-pics making up most of the entries, and no slides at all. Special thanks go to Alasdair Noble for managing the event, compiling the e-pics onto CD and recording the place-getters.

The top three in each category will now be entered in the Interclub Photo Competition on **28 September**, this year hosted by PNTMC.

Historical Booklet for Sale

“Chronology of the Tararua and Rimutaka Ranges” A fully revised 5th edition of this booklet, packed with information on the history, huts, and events of the two ranges, is now available. It replaces earlier editions.

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

Ross A. Kerr
PO Box 540
Levin 5510
Phone (06) 368 4796

Avalanche Awareness

There have been some big avalanches on Mt Egmont, and no doubt elsewhere in the North island with all this snow. Avalanches are one of the big dangers both in winter and summer snow country.

The NZ Mountain Safety Council runs short avalanche awareness courses (an evening lecture followed by a day on the slopes), as well as longer ones. Well worth going on if you are a trumper skier or climber.

The next one on Mt Ruapehu is Friday night 25 October and Sat 26th. For more info, the full listing of courses and also the link to the avalanche advisory (ie what the avalanche danger is currently at your favourite area), visit the NZMSC web site;
www.mountainsafety.org.nz

Correction

We welcome the following new member to PNTMC:

Meguru Inoue

I hope we have got it right this time Meguru. I have been witness to three variations by now so hopefully this is right!



Snowcrafters on Mt Taranaki on a normal day by the looks of things!

TRIP REPORTS

Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, Snowcraft 1 & 2 Mt Ruapheu, Holdsworth Explorer, Snowcraft 3 Mt Taranaki

Karori Wildlife Sanctuary

29th July

By Richard Lockett

A rather cool wind greeted us on arrival at the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary car park at midday after a leisurely 10 am start from P North. Lunch was taken in the car park to maximize the available warmth from the sun not knowing that better lunch spots lay on the other side of the fence.

After perusing the shop and handing over the necessary coinage to gain entrance our first stop was the old boat shed for a history lesson on the Karori water reserve. Great old

photo's from way back during construction of the dams. As with a lot of photo's from back then the hill's were all burnt, had me wondering as to how quickly the dam's had filled up with mud.

So onwards beside the lake to the next obstacle to be crossed "The Weka Fence". To keep them in or out I don't know but it doesn't seem to work as Monica and I didn't see any Weka's during our time behind the wire.

Big excitement for me in the research enclosure a real live Tuatara only a couple of metres away trying to coax some warmth out of the available sunlight. The next stop provided a bit of humor, the Kaka feeders

below the top dam. A Kaka feeder on a pole, birds perched in the branches of the nearest tree waiting watching, a Kaka swoops down land's on the bar, the feeder lid slams open, beak in nuts grabbed, wings flapped lid slams shut gone. Three sec's tops.

The Bellbird as soon as that that lid opened he or she was into the trough grabbed a feed and was gone. A blackbird was also waiting and watching after an easy feed but by the time its tiny bird brain got the message to go it was all over, never left the perch, one frustrated Blackbird so funny to watch.

Time to explore the outer regions of the reserve getting into tramping mode up to and over the top dam, then up the side of the valley to meet the boundary fence following this towards Wellington's wind turbine. Lots of activity on the other side walkers runners bikers and one keen fella with two ski poles dragging a heavy metal chain with four car tyres attached?

Dropped back down into the valley via another track which brought us out onto the main track above the top dam and a leisurely walk saw us back at the shop at about 4:30 pm. So off to our over-night accommodation at Pukerua Bay "Sheena's Home Stay" Gray street Pukerua Bay. Sheena being an ex PNTMC and HVTC member shared many tales of previous trips over a nice meal at the Fisherman's Table at Paekakriki.

Day Two Wairaka Walkway

This walkway links Pukerua Bay with Plimmerton around the coast via Wairaka Pt and Te Rewarewa Pt. Setting off from Sheena's after a good sleep and breakfast we headed to the Pukerua Bay railway station crossed the tracks and down through a reserve in the gully beside Takutai Rd South coming out at the pedestrian overbridge with crosses state highway one.

My road atlas showed a track down to the sea through the Raroa Reserve with looked to be a good short cut but on entering into the Kawakawa bush we proceeded up hill not down, a bit of a worry but we'll have a look any way. On proceeding upwards under the

bush canopy I disturbed a large bird above, thinking it to be a Kereru I looked up and saw a Hawk flying away through a gap in the canopy.

There was still some commotion in the canopy above as an object came crashing down to become wedged in the fork of a small tree beside me. Closer examination revealed this to be a large Rat although still alive not in good health as I had disturbed the Hawk while enjoying its breakfast!

Upon leaving the bush excellent views of Kapiti were revealed also the very steep descent required to reach the walkway below. Monica was Ok with giving this slope a go, take our time nice and slow. With a good cover of vegetation i.e. plenty of hand holds we were soon at sea level and on our way to Wiaraka Pt.

A well formed path soon had us at the point after which it was walking on the gravel beach checking out the items washed up on the shore including an unopened can of Speights gold medal ale. That will go down nicely with my lunch but no it was well past its best before date, Bugger.

The bluffs along this stretch of coast are badly eroded and covered with goats, lost count of them with the scenery degenerating further upon reaching the old quarry site halfway around the walkway. A formed metal road took us around Rewarewa Pt towards Hongoeka bay and a brief respite from the wind.

A large seal provided some entertainment as it did its thing in the surf. Hongoeka Bay brought us into Plimmerton and the chance to check out the houses along the coastal road as we made our way to the Plimmerton railway station for the \$2 fare rail trip back to Pukerua Bay. We were Monica Cantwell and Richard Lockett

Snowcraft 1 29-30 July By Instructor

A group of nine left Countdown on Friday evening and after something to eat in Taihape, walked in to the MTSC hut under a

beautiful moon and on plenty of snow. It looked good at least for the next day.

Saturday dawned fine and sunny so we were out of the hut by 8.00am and into it. We had crampons on at the hut door and walked around to get used to them before heading off up to our favourite gullies for some serious instruction.

Saturday was excellent weather and snow conditions, though we did all of the crampon practice before trying self arrests because the snow was very firm till the sun got on it later. The self arrests were, as always, enjoyable with plenty of energy and after a tentative start most trying all sorts of position!! Steve would have to get the prize for the most dynamic. Late in the afternoon we wended our way back to the hut hopefully a little wiser and definitely more tired.

As had been expected the weather on the Sunday morning was not as kind. However, we were away early again in the hope of making the best of it. We had covered all of the instruction that we intended to the day before so we decided to go for a walk and practice things that we had learnt.

The wind was cooler and stronger and visibility varied but we made our way up to the NZ Alpine Club hut, and then descended through the ski field out towards the National Downhill run. By then the weather had deteriorated further and we packed up and headed home. An excellent weekend with all of our goals achieved.

We were: Bruce van Brunt, Alasdair Noble (Instructors) Jennifer Lawn, Richard Steane, Steve Hawkes, Toni van der Mewe, Kevin Hewitt, Zoe Godfrey-Payne, Meguru Inoue.

Snowcraft 2

12-13 August

By Instructor

A smaller group met at Countdown but we had high hopes for the weekend. Survival of the fittest meant that Peter Darragh was instructing with Alasdair this time. The forecast for the weekend was not good (could this be why Bruce and Terry were suddenly

unable to go?) but we intended to cover the basic belays and ropework.

As we numbered six in total we left one car at the Chateau and all crammed into Alasdair's Isuzu for the trip up to the skifield. The other car did not have chains and we were concerned that the conditions on Sunday may not be very good. We made the hut in good time and settled in.

Saturdays' weather was as expected but we were out of the hut in good time and went back in to the gullies above to look at snow anchors and the ropework. Some wind and the odd snow shower did not dampen the enthusiasm and everyone worked really well at the activities. We slowly moved up to some longer slopes and topping out on a ridge above the skifield showed us the true strength of the wind.

Having practiced snowstake and Saxon cross belays ascending and descending we packed up and headed home in the mist. Luckily I had taken a GPS fix on the hut in the morning as we were about to walk straight past it if I had not checked. This new fangled technology does have its place. We were back in the hut a little early but spent time discussing how to react in an emergency, some navigation skills and use of the Mountain Radio and avalanche transceivers.

Later in the evening traverses around the hut were attempted with even one of our party having a go. No comment on the outcome. Sunday morning dawned much worse than Saturday had been. We spent the morning in the hut practicing some of the rope skills and looking at escaping from the system and glacier travel.

We arranged for someone to bury an avalanche transceiver and two hours later not a footprint was to be seen so it was a realistic exercise carried out with success. We left just after lunchtime to find a very icy road down but it was traversed without incident albeit very slowly. Another very successful weekend despite the weather.

We were: Alasdair Noble, Peter Darragh (instructors), Meguru Inoue, Jennifer Lawn, Murray Gifford, Steve Hawkes.

Holdsworth Explorer 20th August By Richard Lockett

A small team consisting of Malcolm Parker and I set off for the holdsworth roadend with a not very promising weather forecast for the day. Our arrival at the carpark was greeted with a steady rain but as I was keen to stretch my legs on this day I ignored it.

Malcolm and I hadn't been up the Atiwhakatu track before so a trot along to the hut and back was our task for the day and with a good pace with Malcolm recalling his trip to Japan we didn't notice the rain.

The first off the couple of big slips on this track was soon encountered which involved detours up and over and a detour around a large tree which had fallen across the track the night before.

The track crosses a few side streams that are bridged each of a different construction, your standard forest service four-wire swing, four-wire swing with a wooden deck and new to me a fully welded aluminium arch design which looked a bit out of place to me out in the bush.

The rain had stopped as we neared the hut I boasted that we would be lunching on the deck of the hut in sunshine, got that wrong as there is no deck on the Atiwhakatu hut and the rain was back but only briefly.

A good lunch had and we were off again back to Holdsworth roadend with the rain stopped, cloud lifting and a touch of sunshine here and there to be at the car at 2 pm. Only an easy trip but a good one.

Tied up in knots on Egmont – Snowcraft 3 26-27 August By Terry Crippen

As normal, the last of the 3 snowcraft weekends for the year takes place on Mt Egmont (or if you prefer Taranaki), with more sweat and effort required by all concerned to successfully get to the venue at Kapuni Lodge (Mt EAC).

Friday night consisted of a range of activities: some sorting out of vehicles around Hokowhitu prior to departure; trying to get petrol at a closed-down petrol station; queuing with possibly half the population of Wanganui at the fish and chip shop; Meguru's first experience of both fish and chips AND hamburger; and NOT finding the key for Konini Lodge (DoC), our Friday night accommodation. This last hiccup was solved with the help of Basel a helpful DoC and Tourist Lodge staff member.



Stomping Steve!

Come Saturday and it was up to Kapuni Lodge by foot. This hut is a good hour or more slog up-hill from the Dawson Falls road end. The weather had improved slightly from the heavy rain and the lodge-shaking wind we had overnight. We were in snow underfoot soon past the shelter. Once at the hut, good teamwork soon had the entrance cleared; shed, water supply and toilet up and running, with the fire going and a brew on.

A very large relatively recent avalanche had devastated the slopes immediately past the toilet. Since the weather was less than desirable inside activities were undertaken for some of the day. Soon we were all tying

ourselves up in knots; behind our backs, eyes closed; and to top it off: simultaneously tying two clove-hitches one per hand!

Meanwhile back at the road end Basel was called on again to help the rearguard of our team gain access to one of our vehicles. Mid afternoon did see us venturing out into the murky weather, onto slopes very close to the hut for some belay practice, before heading back to the warmth of the hut for the evening to concentrate on food and other such necessities.

Overnight the weather had improved to some extent (i.e. the rain and snow had stopped, but visibility was still poor). We headed onto the slopes beginning with a good bout of step cutting, then into the usual gullies for a bit of self arresting, then concentrating on multiple anchor belays and runners. Shortly before it was time to head back to the hut to clean up

and depart the mist finally cleared, giving excellent views of the summit. (No doubt Monday would be a cracker of a day).

A successful conclusion to the Snowcraft programme for 2006. The eight of us; Barbara Cowan, Meguru Inoue, Murray Gifford, Steven Hawkes, Tim Kannegieter, Janet Maessen, Peter Darragh, Terry Crippen.



Some rope trickery demonstrated by 1980s fashion devotee Peter Darragh

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