

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

www.pntmc.org.nz

Newsletter - May 2007

Club Nights

Club nights are held at 7:45pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street. All welcome! Please sign the visitor's book at the door.

Thur 2 May- Leader's training

Increase your skills of trip leadership!
Contact: Anja Scholz 356 6454

Thu 10th May - BYO slides

What have you been up to this summer?

This is the opportunity to show and tell, either on the digital projector or ye olde slide projector.

Contact: Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Thu 24th May - Committee meeting

Thu 31st May - Indian Himalayas

Come along to hear about Richard Haverkamp's trip and see pictures of some high places.

Upcoming Trips

Sun 6 May Easy
Malcolm Leary 06 322 8533

We will follow an old clay road (approx 10km) along a high ridge between Mangaweka and Taihape. It is reasonably high up so could be cold. Contact Malcolm for more information.

Tutuwai
Sat 5th - Sun 6th May Medium
Anja Scholz 356 6454

Many tracks lead to Tutuwai Hut in the Southern Tararuas. With an eye on the weather we'll try to do a shortish and a longish day from Walls Whare, e.g. via Cone Hut and Mt.Reeves. Departing Countdown car park at 7:30 am.

Mangahao Flats
Sat 12th - Sun 13th May Medium
Richard Lockett 323 0948

In the northern Tararuas beyond the top dam. Phone Richard for more information on this trip.

Manawatu Gorge by night
Sat 12th May Easy
Anja Scholz 356 6454

The Gorge Track with a difference: we will leave Countdown Saturday evening 6pm, and walk the track into the night. Coffee and cake on return for sure! Bring a good torch AND a back up torch or spare batteries. Also bring something not usually used for tramping and convince us why it is the latest "must have" gear. The coolest item will win a prize!

Iron Gate Hut
Sat 19th - Sun 20th May Easy/Medium
Craig Allerby 323 7913

Leaving 8am. Heading in to Iron Gate Hut for the night via the track along the Oroua River in the Western Ruahines. Returning out the same way Sunday. A pleasant meander into a nice Backcountry Hut beside the river.

Longview Round Trip
Sat 19th May Medium
Chris Saunders 358 4899

A trip to the aptly-named Longview Hut in the Eastern Ruahines. For variety, we will return via the Makaretu Stream and Awatere Hut - still painted in Forest Service orange! End with a short climb back to the carpark. Leaving Countdown car park at 7.15 am.

Holly Hut, Taranaki
Sat 26th - Sun 27th May Easy/Medium
Malcolm Parker 357 5203

This is a classic trip on the northern slopes of Mt Egmont/Taranaki. Contact Malcolm for more info.

Harding's Park variation

Sun 27th May

M or M/F

Terry Crippen

356 3588

Combined PNTMC/MTSC trip

While many of you have probably walked or run the Sledge Track loop in Harding's Park, the idea of this variation is to do a bigger loop in the same area, with a lot of it being either following a rough track/route or off-track (depending what we want to do on the day.) A good way to catch up with some of the trampers from the other club and do a bit of exploration at the same time. Departing Countdown car park at 8.00am.

Queen Charlotte Track

Sat 2nd - Mon 4th June

Easy/Medium

John Feeney

354 2940

Spend a leisurely 4 days on this popular and spectacular walk. The plan is to take the easy option and have packs transported by launch between huts. The group leaves PN in time to catch the first ferry on Friday 1st June and returns on the 1.30pm ferry on Monday 4th June. Places are filling fast so contact John as soon as possible if you are interested in joining this top trip in the top of the South Island!

Sledge Track

Mon 4th June

Easy/Medium

Duncan Hedderly

354 6905

This trip passes through a neat bit of bush, practically in Palmy's back yard. Gather at 8.30am at Countdown carpark, and we'll tailor plans depending on how keen people are and what the weather is doing.

Trip Grading:

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

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).

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
Janet Wilson 329 4722

Notices

Subs are now due

The AGM has been and gone so subs are now due. Please mail your cheque with the reminder slip from this newsletter to:

PNTMC, PO Box 1217, Palmerston North
or hand it to Martin or Warren at club night.

Normal subs:	Individual \$35	Family \$40
E-sub:	Individual \$25	Family \$30

A note from the editor

by Anne Lawrence

I have just taken over as editor of the PNTMC newsletter as editor. Thanks to Lance, as previous editor, for helping me with the hand over. As a new editor I didn't want to make major changes but I have made a few changes to the format of the newsletter. However, I realise this may not please everyone (or anyone!). Do contact me with any suggestions, criticisms, ideas for articles, etc..

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 15th of each month to Anne at dahlia44@xtra.co.nz or to 44 Dahlia St, Palmerston North.

Notice from DOC

Walls Whare Bridge Closed for Reconstruction until July

Tararua Forest Park:

Waiohine Gorge road and Walls Whare swingbridge closed

- Vehicle access past the first picnic area/abseil site to Walls Whare swingbridge and the bridge itself will be **closed from 30 April 2007** for about nine weeks. This is to allow for the construction of a new suspension bridge across the Waiohine Gorge.
- The existing swingbridge will be closed to the public during construction of the new bridge.
- People can still walk to the camping ground and on into the forest park by crossing the Waiohine River. Parties are advised to take care when crossing the river as it can be dangerous if water levels are high.
- Parties should plan their trips so they do not require exiting the park at this site until the new bridge is built, as if the river becomes impassable they will have to retrace their steps.

For an update or further information contact:

Garry Foster, Programme Manager Visitor Assets
DOC Wairarapa Area Office Ph 06 377 0700

Snowcraft Instruction Programme 2007 Preliminary notice

The snow has arrived, so it's time to start thinking about learning or updating your snowcraft or alpine skills. Here are the dates for the Club's comprehensive snowcraft instruction programme, which begins in mid July. Pass the word round to your friends too.

Snowcraft 1:

Evening Tues 17 July;
Weekend 21-22 July at Mt Ruapehu.

Snowcraft 2:

Evening Tues 31 July;
Weekend 4-5 August at Mt Ruapehu.

Snowcraft 3:

Evening Tues 14 Aug;
Weekend 18-19 August at Mt Egmont/Taranaki.

Further details will be in next month's newsletter. Contact Terry 356 3588, Bruce 328 4761, or visit www.pntmc.org.nz for costs, details and registration form.

Club Gear for Hire

Below is an update about the gear that is available for hire from the Club:

Ice Axes	\$2
Crampons	\$4
Helmets	\$1
Harnesses	\$2
Snow stakes	\$1
Ice Hammers	\$5
Snow shovels	\$3
Tent flies	\$2
Compasses	\$1
Bivvy bags	\$2
Avalanche transceivers *	\$5
Ropes **	\$5
Carabineers, Descenders **	\$1

Cost is for club members per day per item.

Terms & Conditions:

1. Non-club member rates are double.
2. For non-club members identification and a bond may be required if the Hirer is unknown to the Gear Custodian.
3. The Hirer is responsible for ensuring the hired equipment is returned in a satisfactory condition, and on time. If the equipment is lost, or returned in damaged condition, the Hirer is liable to full replacement cost. A continuing fee may be charged if not returned on time. The Hirer is also liable for any further charges that may arise from the club having to pursue return of the gear or moneys owing.
4. *Avalanche transceivers: a form is required to be filled in for these.

5. **The two ropes, and carabineers and decenders can only be hired by club members on scheduled club trips. The other ropes are strictly for Club instruction courses.

6. To hire gear, contact the gear custodian in advance of when you want to pick the gear up otherwise the gear custodian may be away in the hills or the gear not available.

Contact: Mick Leyland 358 3183

Trip Reports

Tour de Karst; Mt Owen

Pre Easter 2007

Photos and report by Terry Crippen

Rendezvousing at the Blue Bridge ferry terminal saw the three of us with two vehicles having a longish wait to board the



8am ferry for this Pre-Easter five day trip. Grabbing bunks in the cabins for a relaxing crossing is always a good idea, as is grabbing a feed at the bakery in Picton on arrival. Then it was off to Nelson, Motueka and Riwaka, dropping off one of the vehicles on the way before heading to the Wangapeka road end shelter (ex hut) for the first night.

A relaxed start to the trip proper had us heading in from Courthouse Flat into the marble country of the Mt Owen Massif. Lots of interesting features near the road end, since there was a short lived quartz and alluvial gold mining industry here late 1800s and earlier 1900s (stamping batteries, old workings etc). And of course the start of various karst features including Blue Creek's resurgence. We were soon heading up higher into "Lord of the Rings" country and for me the first real taste of the very impressive features of the area: including huge bare bluffs, slabs, and ledges; dolines, sinkholes and caves; karren on numerous faces and outcrops; large grey screes; and hobbits. The forest near the bush line has plenty of dracophyllum and cedar, while the spaniards are very large here but fortunately the spikes are softish; a landscape significantly more impressive than the marble of Mt Arthur to the north.

The plan for the next few days was to base ourselves at the well sited Granity Pass Hut; a morning's walk in from the road end, and do day excursions from it. The first afternoon saw us scrambling up towards Billies Knob, enabling me to get a bit of an idea of the lay of the land, since valleys, ridges, streams and spurs don't behave "normally" in karst country. Navigation in poor visibility in this type of country would tax even the most expert Taranua trampers.



The next day was an excellent cross country circuit up onto Mt Bell (1857m) and Mt Owen (1875m, the highest peak in Kahurangi National Park). Great views in all directions; to the east the granite Lookout Ridge, to the north and northwest Mounts Patriarch and Kendall standing out high, and to the south west the bluffs of the Matiri Range and the Haystack.

The following day we headed off cross country to Culliford Hill (1756m). Why it's just called a hill I don't know since it is equally as impressive as Mts Bell and Owen, especially the steep way we went to avoid the strong cool wind. Our last day on the massif had us checking out an interesting approach into one of the cavers' valleys, access being across bluffs and large screes. However as the visibility was minimal

and temperatures were dropping we had an early return to the hut for lunch, whereupon as often happens the weather improved! A leisurely departure back to the road end, a minor hiccup with the vehicle (i.e. the motor stopped dead), then it was off to some salubrious accommodation thanks to the local caving club for the last night.

So for those of you who didn't partake in this excellent trip, put Mt Owen on your MUST DO SOUTH ISLAND AREAS LIST – and get in before even more overseas visitors get there. It has become a bit too popular with overseas types since Lord of the Rings was partly filmed here. We fortunately had it relatively quiet. Many thanks to Janet Wilson and Graham Peters for organising the trip and being expert guides.

We were Janet Wilson, Graham Peters and Terry Crippen.

Some terms:

Marble: metamorphosed limestone.

Karst: terrain created by solution processes rather than surface drainage, typically in marble and limestone areas.

Doline: enclosed valley or depression.

Karren: small-scale solution features (mm to a few meters).



Nelson Lakes

Fri 6th - Mon 9th April

Photos and report by Martin Lawrence

St Arnaud, Yellow House

Our goal this Easter was to visit some of the higher spots in the Travers region of Nelson Lakes National Park. As arranged, Terry was waiting with his vehicle at Nelson Airport so we were soon in the excellent Yellow House in St Arnaud for the night.

Cupola Basin

Next morning the Rotoiti Water Taxi left us on the other end of Rotoiti and we had our first chance to see just how heavy the packs were. Morning cloud soon cleared and we were able to appreciate the sunny walk up the Travers Valley through beech forest. As expected during a holiday weekend there were others heading the same way so it was great to turn right after John Tait Hut and head up to Cupola Basin. As we'd been told, Cupola Basin Hut is a real beaut. It is positioned in a stunning location just above the bush line with views over the valley and over to Mt Hopeless and Mt Cupola.

Mt Cupola

There was rain during the night which cleared the next day for our climb of Mt Cupola. I was a little worried about the technical challenge of this but Terry re-assured us and it was great that we all managed it, though Anne did graze her knee and bruise her chest on an ugly rock near the top. Since Cupola was shrouded in cloud that day we would have to wait until later for views. There was time later that afternoon back at the hut for a wander around the

basin. We found the foundations of a small building just south of the hut. Terry thought that possibly it was a hide that had been used for observing wildlife on the slopes opposite. This was also on the route we were to follow the next day up to Gunsight Pass.

Gunsight Pass and a "Sidle"

We walked up to the pass on a beautiful clear morning. We expected a longish day and weren't wrong! This part of the trip was the only section that Terry hadn't done so we were not sure just how difficult the sidle from Gunsight Pass across to Travers Saddle would be. Terry's notes mentioned a rocky rib part way along, which we could either drop below or climb above. Terry went for the lower route and helpfully scouted ahead to try and find an easy way through the scrub. With a bit of bush bashing and scrambling on a very steep slope we eventually won through, sustaining a few more grazes and bruises. After that it was a long sidle through tussock and speargrass towards the Travers Saddle track. The sun seemed hot and the day seemed long as we toiled up the track to the saddle, caught our breath and found a superb campsite beside one of the tarns. After 9 ½ hours walking we enjoyed another good meal and were early to bed.

Rainbow Pass then back down the Travers Valley

Since this was another glorious morning we left the fly up and checked out Rainbow Pass and taking in the views over to the East. Terry and I also climbed the peak west of the pass and spent more time spotting peaks and other landmarks. After lunch we were to cruise down the Travers Valley past the impressive Upper Travers Hut. The original plan was





Looking toward Mt Travers from Gunsight Pass

to fly camp again on the bush line near Summit Creek before climbing Travers the next day, but this was changed to spending two nights at John Tait Hut.

“Grunt” up Mt Travers

Christine elected to stay at the hut while the 3 of us left early for a longish hike to the summit of Mt Travers. To reach the top took 5 hours, a few bumper bars and a fair amount of water. It was well worth it though as we'd scored another great sunny day and enjoyed more great views, including a bird's eye look straight down to Upper Travers Hut.

Back to the Lake

The weather seemed to be breaking as we walked through very pleasant beech forest to Coldwater Hut. The hut is currently closed as DOC is improving it, so we boiled a billy outside and had lunch with the sandflies while we waited for the boat. I was amused when Terry's usually reliable memory seemed to fail over the very long boardwalk near Coldwater Hut, which we didn't see, so he checked with the DOC man and, yes, it had recently been entirely removed due to storm damage.

In summary this really was a great way to spend Easter, and is a huge credit to Terry for another well organised and thought out trip.

We were Anne and Martin Lawrence, Terry Crippen and Christine Cheyne.

Easter Eggmont aka 'Toblerone on Taranaki'

Sat 7th April

By Duncan Hedderly

I've been on a number of Warren's Easter Eggmont trips, and the weather has ranged from poor to dreadful. So when the forecast looked good for Easter, I leapt at the chance, even though I'd not done much tramping this year.

The 6am start was a bit of a shock, but Warren, Anthony and I had warmed up, literally and conversationally, by the time we reached the Stratford Plateau carpark at 9am. It all went uphill from there.

Heading up the ski field and past the Policeman, we got into cloud. Warren and Anthony clambered up the rocks like goats; I didn't. We emerged from the cloud and continued up the 30 degree, rocky, uneven slope, with occasional breaks to stare up the East Ridge to the Shark's Tooth (to figure a route - we saw almost no markers), or out across the patchy cloud to New Plymouth and Ruapehu. By now, all that open space and the sense of being halfway up a big slope was really scaring me. Warren gave me some tips on technique, which helped me keep up, and kept my mind occupied. Eventually, Anthony disappeared over the skyline for one last time, and ten minutes later we were looking down into the crater.



Photo: Anthony Eyles

We clambered down the chimney into the crater, stared at the snow (Isn't it supposed to go down all the way to bubbling lava, Mt Doom style?), then Anthony and Warren went up to the summit, while I appreciated being on flat ground with a horizon close. There must have been between 30 and 40 people in the crater, and every five minutes or so another couple would pop up from the Lizard which is the other way in. There were some European accents there, but mostly kiwis, anywhere from 25 to 65 years of age.

After some exploring and an Easter egg, we set off down the Lizard. I had a moment of dizziness near the start (when Anthony said "Look at all the people down there") but the Lizard is a different beast to the East Ridge, with a worn, poled track; and I'd seen the motley assortment of people who had got **up** it - how dangerous could it be? Although it was 2pm when we left the top, there were still a few people on their way up; one couple hadn't even reached the scoria. Ah yes, the scoria; fun to come down (Anthony took it in big, two-footed skiing jumps), and the thought of coming up it made me feel a little better about the route we **had** come. And then we were on the Staircase, and back to Tauranga Lodge, where we met a couple of families who had been going for 10 hours (and the kids weren't moaning!)

We were back at the car about 4.30pm - a bit early for tea at the RSA in Stratford. So Warren coasted the car down to Highway 3 and headed Wanganui-wards. We stopped there at a busy little chippy for food, and were back in PN by 8.30pm. I'm glad I've done it, and grateful to Warren and Anthony for their patience, but I'll stick to bush and hills for the next wee while. Anthony, on the other hand, was figuring out when he could have a crack at Ruapehu.

We were Warren Wheeler, Duncan Hedderly and Anthony Eyles.

Powell Hut & Holdsworth

Sun 15 April

By Duncan Hedderly

It's a long way up to Powell hut. It probably didn't help that Neil and I couldn't remember landmarks to gauge our progress. Pat, newly arrived from Britain and with a background in sports and outdoor education, seemed fairly calm being led up a hill by two vague foreigners. He was more taken by the views...and they were great!

It was a sunny, calm day, and you could see out to the coast and down to Lake Wairarapa. We had lunch at the hut then decided it would be a pity to come all this way and not do the extra 30-40 minutes to Mt Holdsworth summit. There were patches of snow in the tussock around the trig, and more amazing views, and a group of two families with knee- to waist-high kids.

On the way down I thought how unusual a tramp this was - the track and hut were a bit more swept-up, but the big difference was the number and variety of people - four year olds, mountain runners, people coming partway in to the lookout. No, I'm not going to venture an opinion whether it's better, but it is good to see a varied and accessible area like this being used variously.

We were Neil Campbell, Pat Johnstone and Duncan Hedderly.



Duncan and Pat on the way to Mt Holdsworth

President's Report

29 March 2007

by Warren Wheeler, President PNTMC

It is with pleasure that I present the 41st President's Report.

Membership

We have welcomed 4 new members over the last year (actually 6 individuals if we count the two family memberships) with a loss of 6, so current membership now totals 58. This includes 12 families or couples, and 46 individuals, with a 63:37 overall ratio of men and women. 16 club members subscribe as e-members (e-sub) and read their monthly newsletter off the web.

Activities

As in the past, the committee has ensured that the club offers a wide variety of trips, club nights, social activities and instruction courses for members and non-members.

There were numerous local trips into the Tararua and Ruahine Ranges, and other day trips ranging from an Urban Walk in Wellington to a climb of Mt Tongariro. There were also longer trips to more faraway locations including Ruatikuri Wilderness Area in the Ureweras, Pureora Forest Park, Kahurangi National Park and a very social trip to D'Urville Island.

The bad weather this past year is reflected in the high proportion of trips that did not go – 30% of day trips and 50% of overnight trips. The average number on day trips was 4.8, and for overnight trips was 4.3. Not including the 28 on the recent FMC field trip to Rangī the most popular trips were the Pohangina Pathways day trip and D'Urville Island Queens Birthday trip, both of which attracted 12 people.

Club nights were generally well-attended and included presentations by club members on Korea-trekking, Fitzroy-Patagonia, Snowcraft Introduction, Tapaeonuku, Kahurangi Spotlight, Geocache Navnite, and Outback Adventures. We also had guest speakers who gave presentations on Beyond Wool and Goretex, Mt Albert-Edward (PNG), What's up DoC, Under the Dark Sky, and Weather or Not.

We also had two BYO slides evenings, a Cooking Competition, a Waterford Café and Glow-worms night, Club photo competition, Rescue Helicopter hangar visit and a BBQ at the start and end of the summer holiday-season.

In September we hosted the Interclub Photo Competition and PNTMC members again scooped a good share of the prizes generously donated by

various sponsors. The Interclub Quiz was hosted by MUAC and despite the home advantage our group won the Trevor Bissell Memorial Trophy, and enjoyed our share of the prizes, edible or otherwise.

Snowcraft 1, 2, and 3 were again successful in attracting new members and running at a small profit. There were 9 people on SC1 and 6 on SC2 and 3. Our well-structured course has been developed thanks to Terry Crippen and Bruce van Brunt. Thanks also to the other instructors Alasdair Noble and Peter Darragh for sharing their valuable skills and experience.

We are looking to further foster our relationship with our fellow trampers and climbers in the MTSC by having combined trips in the coming year. We have looked into combining PNTMC and MTSC Snowcraft courses but the instructors in each club agreed that separate courses would be preferable at this stage. However those attending the two MTSC Snowcraft weekends are invited to follow up with our Snowcraft 3.

Training

The club has provided subsidised training for 3 members on a Mountain Safety First Aid Course and 4 members on a FMC Leadership Training Course.

Search and Rescue

About 15 club members are involved as SAR volunteers and had a particularly busy year with several call-outs and standby calls justifying all the on-going training and practice provided by NZ Land SAR. Two of the call-outs fortunately ended without getting further than the Levin base, but there were five other real callouts including a night stretcher carry in the Manawatu Gorge, a foot search in the Roberts Line area and along the Manawatu River bank, a river bank search at Balance bridge, an urban search in Highbury, and search for a lost party on Mangaweka.

Several members attended weekend courses on Track and Clue Awareness, and Search Methods with the year culminating in the recent SAREX. Both Terry Crippen and Peter Darragh have continued as our club representatives on the local SAR committee and Jean Garman as the Regional Training Coordinator. The monthly refresher training initiated by Jean is helping to maintain all local volunteers at peak efficiency. Janet Wilson is also regularly involved in providing training at these sessions.

Thanks to those members who have so willingly offered their time, often at short notice.

Equipment and Gear

The new data projector and laptop are proving to be a valuable asset at club nights, with slide shows becoming a thing of the past. As far as real gear goes,

we are looking to obtain an extra ice axe to complete the sets of Snowcraft gear.

Interaction with DoC

The Pinus contorta eradication programme on Ruapehu has been cut back and we did not assist this year. However DoC has called for volunteers for their Stoat Monitoring Project in the northern Rauhines over the next two years. This should be a rewarding opportunity for those interested in making up a team of 3 or 4 to spend at least one weekend walking the tracks and checking traplines.

Submissions

The Committee has been active in making Club submissions on various matters of interest to the club. Tony Gates made a submission to DoC on their Whanganui National Park Management Plan and regarding the replacement of Zeke's Hut at its present location. David Grant has made submissions opposing the closure of Waewaepa Road, supported an objection from John Rhodes about the DoC radio mast recently installed on Mt Cone in the Tararuas without consultation, and regarding the PNCC Woodpecker Block and Kahuterawa Recreation Plan. Club members have also signed a petition to MDC regarding maintaining access on North Umutoi Road. Local issues can readily be dealt with by the Club but we rely on FMC for matters of national interest such as Public Access and Helicopter Access in remote areas.

FMC Meeting

FMC consists of a dedicated team of volunteers from clubs around the country and it was a pleasure to meet most of them here at the March meeting of the FMC Executive. It is good to see our \$10 membership fee is in good hands.

FMC were most appreciative of our efforts in helping to arrange the meeting venue, and enjoyed the opportunity to meet and hear any concerns or views from members of local clubs, not only at the meeting but also over dinner and a Sunday trip up to Rangi Hut. It was good to see them in action and put faces to some well-known names, including Uncle Jacko from the FMC Magazine.

Newsletter and Web-site

Thanks to Lance Gray as editor and to all those members who beat the deadline and contributed to make our monthly newsletter such an interesting and enjoyable read. Thanks also to Anja Scholz for distributing the newsletter so efficiently.

The web-site is steadily being enhanced with new features and additional information thanks to web-master Peter Wiles. There have been numerous feedback queries via the site, some more unusual than others but consistently about joining the club.

Accidental Death

Sadly we lost Meguru Inoue in a climbing accident on Mt Cook in January. The rockfall also claimed the life of one of her two fellow Japanese climbers. Meguru was an enthusiastic club member and gained many friends in her short time here. Her parents and brother visited Palmerston North after the funeral in Timaru and this provided the opportunity for many of us to express our condolences. Apart from the many photos and other mementos from individual members they also received from the Club a rimu memorial plaque with a mounted figure of 8 as a token of our deepest sympathy and respect. She is sorely missed.

Meguru is sadly the fourth club member to die on Mt Cook, but hopefully she is the last.

Thanks

Finally I would like to thank all those members who have helped in running the club over the past year. Special thanks to David Grant as Secretary, Alasdair Noble as Treasurer, Martin Lawrence for taking over as Treasurer when Alasdair left for the UK in November, Janet Wilson as chief trip coordinator, Mick Leyland as Gear Custodian, and Anja Scholz as supper coordinator. Special mention also to Monica Cantwell and Richard Lockett for continuing to promote the club by putting up flyers on community notice boards around Palmerston North and Feilding.

And lastly, thanks to all of you for supporting the club, and for helping to fulfil the worthwhile objectives that were developed by those far-sighted individuals over 40 years ago. It has been a mixed year of good and bad results, let's hope next year is much better.

May the skies be blue
And the trail be true.

Warren Wheeler.



Note from the editor

At the AGM on 29 March, Warren was re-elected unopposed as president, and Terry Crippen was newly elected to the position of vice-president. Details of other positions are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Other news

Out of Africa

From Dave and Gaewyn Grant

Howzit going back in clean green NZ? It seems hard to believe we have been away nearly 2 months. Been having a ball. Have spent lots of time with the family getting to know our new granddaughter Lucy in Pietermaritzburg. What a cutie - what else could I say?!

Just got back from a 3 week overland trip in a truck up the west coast of southern Africa from Cape Town to Victoria Falls. Travelled with a fun group of younger people - one NZ guy and four Aussie girls, and looked after by three black guys from Zimbabwe. What characters! Most of the time we were camping but a couple of times had the luxury of a bed. Seen amazing things.

Started with a wine tour of the Stellenbosch region and then worked our way up to Namibia and the Fish River canyon - oldest and second biggest in the world, the Namib desert (Sosussvlie dunes), Etosha National Park with herds of giraffe, zebra, impala, wildebeest etc. grazing out on the open grassland next to the salt pan (which is 120km long by 50 km wide!!). Saw lions close up on a couple of occasions. Then on to the Okovango Delta (poling through the reeds in a dug out canoe) and Chobe (up close and personal with elephants) in Botswana, ending up at Victoria Falls in Zambia. What an awesome sight they are! Was going to go white water rafting but river too high.

Also went quad biking in the dunes at Swakopmund - wow what a buzz, and did a sky dive. Done some eye-opening tours through native townships and villages. Dined on fried Mopane worms and mealie pap in one. Makes you realise how lucky we are in NZ. Even our poorest people have a state house to live in. The heat in some of these areas is something else. And dust, dirt and rubbish is the main impression of many of the towns we went through. Done a few other touristy things before we went on the trip, including a couple of days in the northern Drakensberg mountains - fabulous scenery, and a few days in Ithala game park in KwaZulu Natal.

Wrote some post cards while away but could never find a post office, or one that was open so have just posted them. Resting up for a bit just now but hope to fit in a few more adventures before we head home. Hope the club has had lots of good trips, the AGM went smoothly, and look forward to catching up when we get home.

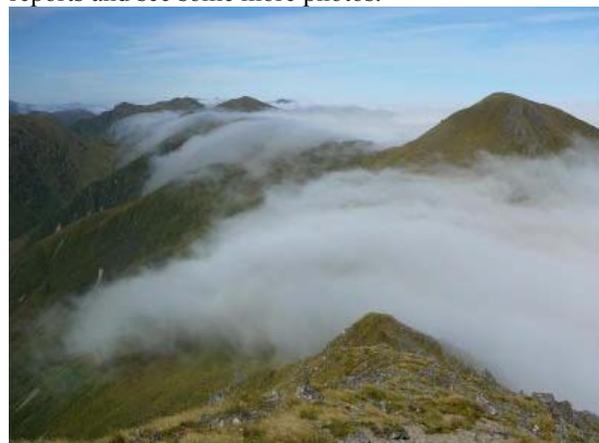
Tararua rogaine

Graham Peters and Janet Wilson were a winning combination for the Tararua Hutbagging competition. They won this rogaine by bagging a total of 31 huts in the 4 x 24hr periods allowed.



Janet Wilson bags another hut.

Go to www.hutbagger.blogspot.com to read their trip reports and see some more photos.



Cloud on the Dundas Range on Janet and Graham's 3rd hutbagging trip

THE WHO DID WHAT LIST for the 2006-2007 year (April to March)

Compiled by Terry Crippen

Following is my list of what club members have been up to over the last year: tramping, climbing and other related outdoor activities and some overseas travel. It uses the same format as previous years: i.e. *excludes* our frequent local tramps and activities, concentrating on further afield areas; *includes* both club and private trips, but listing only club members and past club members names (i.e. a single name doesn't imply a solo trip necessarily). Apologies for errors or any trips I have missed. Anyhow the list may inspire you to try something a bit more extended or somewhere further afield this year and it will give you contacts for information. (*denotes ascents)

March 2006	
Baton & Leslie Valleys, Kahurangi NP	Llew & Jenny Prichard, Graham Roberts.
April 2006	
Reay Valley, Mt Cook NP	Terry Crippen, Nigel Green.
Ruakituri Wilderness, Urewera NP	Anne & Martin Lawrence, Peter Wiles, Tony Gates, Terry Crippen.
Vietnam	Monica Cantwell.
Lake Rotoiti Run, Nelson Lakes NP	Janet Wilson.
Mangapura Track, Wanganui NP	Malcolm Leary, Jo & Lawrence O'Halloran, Ian Harding.
June 2006	
D'Urville Is, Marlborough Sounds	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, Ian Harding, Martin & Anne Lawrence, Craig Allerby, John Feeney, Christine Cheyne, Terry Crippen.
Turkey	Monica Cantwell.
August 2006	
Chatham Is	Fiona Donald.
Tramping, Norway	Warren Wheeler, Kristina Mattsson.
September 2006	
Tov Aimag, Mongolia	Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne.
Lake Baikal, Russia	Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne.
Otira Valley, Arthurs Pass (*Phillistine)	Chris & Alasdair Saunders.
Lewis Tops, Lewis Pass	Chris & Alasdair Saunders.
Korea	Bruce van Brunt.
Aussie Outback 4WD, Australia	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters.
October 2006	
Japanese Alps, Japan	Peter Wiles, Yuko Watanabe.
Ellis River, Tablelands, Kahurangi NP (*Arthur)	Anne & Martin Lawrence, Meguru Inoue, Murray Gifford, Terry Crippen, Warren Wheeler.
December 2006	
White Valley, Arthurs Pass NP (*Wakeman, Harper, Murchison)	Meguru Inoue, Murray Gifford, Terry Crippen.
Otira & Deception Valleys, Arthurs Pass NP (*Rolleston, Franklin)	Meguru Inoue, Terry Crippen.
Franz Joseph Glacier, Westland NP (*Minerets)	Bruce van Brunt, Clive Marsh.
W & E Matukituki Valleys, Aspiring NP (*Homestead)	Bruce van Brunt, Clive Marsh.
West Matukituki Valley, Aspiring NP	Bruce & Anastasia van Brunt, Penny Abercrombie.
Copeland Pass, Mt Cook & Westland NP	Andrew Lynch, Tim Kannegieter, Barbara Cowan.
Waimakariri & Taipo Valleys, Arthurs Pass NP	Anja Scholz, Lance Gray.
Poulter Valley, Arthurs Pass NP	Anja Scholz, Lance Gray.
Robert Ridge, Travers Valley, Nelson Lakes NP (*Angelus)	Meguru Inoue.
January 2007	
Tasman Glacier, Mt Cook NP (*Annan, Hockstetter Dome, Alymer)	Meguru Inoue, Terry Crippen.
Mueller Hut, Mt Cook NP	Meguru Inoue, Terry Crippen.
Mueller Hut, Mt Cook NP	Anja Scholz.
N & S Temple Valleys, Ohau Cons Area	Terry Crippen.
February 2007	
Douglas Neve, Copland Valley, Westland NP (*Sefton)	Bruce van Brunt, Terry Crippen, Peter Wiles, Malcolm Leary, Nigel Scott.
Copeland Valley, Westland NP	Edith Leary.
Temple Basin, Arthurs Pass NP (*Temple, Blimit, Cassidy)	Terry Crippen, Bruce van Brunt, Nigel Scott.
Otira Valley, Arthurs Pass NP (*Rolleston)	Malcolm Leary, Bruce van Brunt.
Heaphy Track, Kahurangi NP	Christine Cheyne.
Kayaking, Able Tasman NP	Tony Gates.
March 2007	
24 hour x 4, hut bagging, Tararua FP	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, Tony Gates.
Mt Owen, Kahurangi NP (*Owen, Bell)	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, Terry Crippen.

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