

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter December 2008 – January 2009

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, Palmerston North. All welcome! Please sign the visitor's book at the door.

11 December

End Of Year BBQ

Ashurst Domain from 6.30pm

Join us to celebrate another great year. We will be at the BBQ shelter next to the playground (inside the green shed if wet).

BYO food and drink, (and a portable BBQ if you have one) and a small Xmas gift for under the tree.

Contact Warren 356-1998 if you need a ride out there.

29 January 2009

New year BBQ

Horseshoe Bend from 6.30pm

Join us for a pleasant BBQ evening and a chance to rave about all the trips you've done over the holidays. 6.30pm start, or come earlier if you want more time for a swim. BYO food and drink. Turn left in Tokomaru and follow the road to the end (about 2 km). Contact Warren 356-1998 for a ride out there.

Trip Notes

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trumper should be expected to do the trips in the following times:

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

Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Countdown car park. A charge for transport will be collected on the day.

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

Note to partners, parents or friends of members:

If a club trip is late returning, please do not worry unduly as there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone one of the Overdue Trip Contacts:

Mick Leyland	358-3183
Terry Crippen	356-3588
Janet Wilson	329-4722

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Anne Lawrence email: dahlia44@xtra.co.nz or post 44 Dahlia St, PN.

Upcoming Trips

6-7 December

Upper Otaki

F

Tony Gates

357-7439

We plan for an early departure, and to enter the Tararuas at Waikawa (near Manakau), with car (s) driven around to Otaki Forks for road end security. The trip will go over the low bush saddle in the south branch of the Waikawa Stream, into the Waitewaiwai (YTTY) headwaters, and down thru gorgeous beech forest and grassy flats to the Otaki River above YTTY hut. No tracks- just good Tararua forest. The car driver can amble into YTTY hut, then up river to join us at one of the many paradise-like campsites. Out to Otaki Forks via YTTY hut on Sunday.

7 December

Splash and dash @ Ohau

M

Richard Lockett

323-0948

Leaving Countdown at 7.30am and heading to South Ohau Hut. Contact Richard for more details.

14 December

Cape Kidnappers

M

Chris Tuffley

359-2530

The moon is smiling on a trip to the gannet colony this Sunday, with low tide falling at 1:30pm - perfect for starting our walk along the beach at the seemly hour of 10am! We'll leave Palmy at 7:30, watch the nesting gannets over lunch, then set off back along the beach by 3 to avoid getting trapped. Total walking time will be around 5 hours.

Summer New Year Trip

31 December - 4 January

Warren Wheeler **356-1998**

As in previous years, Warren is planning a 5 day trip into either the Ruahine or Tararua Ranges. Options at this stage include a Ruahine loop (Tukutuki-Sawtooth Ridge-Waterfall Hut-Pouranaki-Black Ridge) or an east-west Tararua Forks and Flies Trip. Warren is flexible over the times as he starts work on Wednesday 7 January. Contact Warren to discuss possibilities.

10-12 January

TNP (PNTMC 2009) **M/F**

Warren Wheeler **356-1998**

Depart Friday night at 6.00pm. Start the year by climbing 2009m in Tongariro National Park. Our route will include (Day 1) Pukekaikiore, Ngauruhoe, (Day 2) Tongariro, 'Merald Lakes, Central Crater. We will probably be staying in cabins but camping is always an option.

Wellington Anniversary weekend

17-19 January

South Eastern Tararuas and the Wings over

Wairarapa Airshow **M/F**

Janet Wilson **329-4722**

Starting late in the afternoon of the Saturday of Wellington Anniversary weekend, this trip is a circuit in the South Eastern Tararuas, taking in Cone, Tutuwai and Alpha Huts, Smith Creek Shelter and most of the Marchant Ridge. It could be a longish day on the Sunday depending on the route Janet finally decides on. Come prepared to camp. Graham and Janet are going to the "Wings over Wairarapa airshow" on the Saturday – trip participants you may also like to come along to that – Janet says it is highly recommended if you have even the slightest interest in old planes! Be prepared for an early start if you are going to the airshow as well as the tramp.

19 January (Monday)

Wharite **M**

Duncan Hedderley **354-6905**

Celebrate Wellington Anniversary by looking down on the province. The view from the TV mast is worth the (in places steep) walk up from Coppermine Creek, through bush and leatherwood (we will follow a track - this isn't a bush-bash) Meet 8am at Countdown

24-25 January

Lake Dive (Taranaki NP) **M/F**

Martin Lawrence **357-1695**

On a clear day this tramp offers fantastic views up the mountain and down to the plains and Taranaki coastline. Martin plans a loop, starting by heading up to Fantham's Peak from Dawson Falls then down to Lake Dive Hut for the night. Sunday involves a somewhat more gentle stroll back to the carpark.

Possibility of leaving on the Friday night so we can get an early start walking on Saturday.

25 January

Beehive Creek Walkway **E/F**

Doug Strachan **353-6526**

A trip suitable for adults, children, and new boots that need to be wettened and softened. Club trips don't get any easier than this. The trip begins with a walk along the road to the start of the track. There is scope to drop off people with younger children here to give them a head start up the hill. The short ascent is followed by a stroll across farmland before dropping down to the creek. The walk along the creek includes shady stretches. The creek bed is not rocky, and the water generally less than ankle deep. It is only 30km from PN to Beehive Creek Walkway, just past Pohangina town. The trip involves about 2hrs walking, with a pleasant picnic spot at the end for lunch. Leader will provide Buzz Bars. Leisurely 9am start.

31 January-1 February

Central East Ruahines **F**

Murray Gifford **357-3353 or 021-774290**

From Mill Rd road end, we head up the Tukituki river to Daphne Hut, and up the Daphne spur to Howletts. Sunday is a long day, as we head up and over Tiraha (1668m), along Sawtooth Ridge to Ohuinga (1686m), down black ridge to Tarn Biv, and then out via Rosvalls track. Start 7.00am at Countdown carpark.

1 February

Whakapapaiti walk **E/M**

Trevor King, **356-4557**

Enjoy summer on the Mountain! This trip heads down the Whakapapaiti Valley, off Mt Ruapehu's Top Of the Bruce Road. Exits at the Chateau for coffee. A very pleasant and picturesque downhill walk of medium length. Leave Countdown 6.00 a.m. Sunday.

Waitangi Weekend

6 February (Friday)

Roaring Stag **M**

Duncan Hedderley **354-6905**

In the hills behind Eketahuna, Roaring Stag used to be an old deer stalkers hut alongside the Ruamahanga river. DoC replaced it with a new one about 18 months ago, so come have a look. Depart PN at 8am.

Waiohine Gorge trip

6- 8 February **F**

Tony Gates **357-7439**

The Waiohine Gorge is a classic Tararua river, with fantastic tube floating and scenery. We start with climb of Mt Holdsworth, then descend to Mid Waiohine Hut, and then float down to Totara Flats, where we can meet the other trip and give them a turn on the tubes. Definitely a fit trip. Wet suits, helmets, and dry bags essential. Depart Friday evening.

News from DOC



- An 80 metre section of the Waiotauru track, approx. 10 minutes from the Fenceline Carpark at Otaki Forks has slipped into the river. Attempts are being made to keep a route across the slip but due to the current unstable nature of the slip care needs to be taken when using this area.
- Holdsworth Creek swingbridge is closed due to damage by a fallen tree, and a second bridge has been destroyed. Do not attempt to cross the creek if in flood.
- Cattle Ridge and Butcher Tracks will be closed until further notice due to windfalls.
- Gentle Annie Track being closed for 14 weeks from 10 November 2008. Work on upgrading the Gentle Annie track began on 10 November 2008. The track will be closed to the public for approx. 14 weeks. An alternative route to Mountain House and Powell Hut further along the Atiwhakatu valley will remain open during this time. Pedestrian and vehicle access at Holdsworth campground will be restricted on the first two days of the operation to allow for the air lifting of equipment and materials into the worksite by helicopter.

Notices

PNTMC Events Card Jan - June 2009

Included with this newsletter is the events card for the six months to June 2009. The layout of the trip card has been changed – the main difference is that club nights are on the other side of the card to tramps. The aim was to have the information in a format that was easier to read.

Thanks to all those who have offered to lead trips – we have a great selection, and thanks to the trip coordinators (Janet Wilson and Terry Crippen) for putting the programme together. Although we do try to keep to the schedule, changes are unavoidable at times. Updates are given at club nights, or in the monthly newsletter. If there is a trip you are really

keen on going on, it pays to contact the trip leader well in advance.

Petrol prices and transport costs

Most of you have no doubt noticed that petrol prices have gone significantly down in the last two months. Perhaps this is a brief respite - but let us take advantage of it and do even more tramping. The complication for the committee is that we are supposed to set "club rates" for transport. These rates are simply rough guidelines that are intended to help members estimate transport costs. In reality, it is common that the trip leader/drivers decide on the costs and communicate this to the other trampers. This system has worked well over many years.

The committee increased the club rate for transport costs to 30c per km when petrol was \$2 per litre. The earlier rate was 25c per km, which seemed reasonable when petrol was around \$1.50 per litre. We are reluctant, however, to continually respond to fluctuations of the petrol market by revisiting club rates for transport cost. Instead, we suggest (as always) that decisions about transport costs be left to the discretion of trip leaders/drivers and that trip leaders give a rough estimate of transport costs in advance to the trip participants.

Trip Reports

The Richmond Range

24- 27 October

Report: Tony Gates



Photo: Murray Gifford

We used "Air 2 There", then a shuttle van from Blenheim, and were soon out tramping the Richmond Ranges, located between Blenheim and Nelson. It was the first time there for most of us, and probably not our last. The shuttle van dropped us off at the Timms valley, from where we followed the track

through some cut over pine forest beside an attractive stream. Excellent native forest soon predominated, with grand *Nothofagus* specimens featuring. A steep track up the hill. Mist and drizzle had us occasionally changing jackets until rain set in near the hut, and jackets were needed full time. Time for a late lunch at Mt Fell Hut, followed by successful fire lighting practice and siesta. Continuing poor weather prohibited any serious afternoon activity beyond the hut door.

The outlook for day two appeared somewhat bleak from the hut door. We persevered after a leisurely breakfast, and clambered the short distance up to tussock tops with day packs. Right on cue, the weather cleared. A spectacular escarpment dropped beneath our feet to the Pelorus River, and followed much of the Richmond Range in both directions. With a consultant Geologist amongst us, our understanding of such features was much improved. Mist rolled in again up on Mt Fell as we followed the interesting and well-poled route north to point 1496, and the much vaunted chain bolted to the rock. Apparently, it is extremely useful during icy conditions. DoC had also installed a 100 litre alkathene drum on the knob, and it was full of water – useful as the Richmond Range can get extremely dry. Back at Mt Fell Hut, other trampers had arrived wanting to stay at the already full hut. Most of them fitted in OK.

These four day weekend tramps are great, with enough time to explore, rest, and wait for good weather. So on our third day, after a blizzard during the night, we were greeted with blue skies and a fresh snowy landscape. One trip member had bivvied out till the blizzard hit at midnight, then retreated rather cold and unceremoniously to the hut floor. We departed the hut at a reasonable hour, and all ambled along the well marked trail ankle deep in snow. Gorgeous conditions but very cold. Mt Fishtail looked impressive, as did Mts Johnson and Richmond up ahead. We bypassed a few rocky crags to the saddle on Mt Johnson, which is about 200 metres from the crash site of Lockheed Electra ZK AFE "Kereru". On 7 May 1942, 5 passengers and crew perished here in this beautiful but wild piece of New Zealand. Bitterly cold conditions, plus icy bluffs below us at the wreck site, were somewhat unattractive.

We paid our respects to those who perished from the ridge top, then continued on to Mt Richmond. The big climb went well, despite the continuing freezing wind, and soon we were on the top. Much to our surprise, the spacious summit was quite sheltered. A memorable spot to rest, photograph, and enjoy, with many distant peaks named by Terry.



Photo: Martin Lawrence

Our route from the previous day looked impressive. Numerous vegetable sheep about. A steep descent over more snow covered scree, then even steeper bluffs, soon had us back in the bush, then to the delightful Richmond Saddle hut. Time to rest our knees, dry out damp clothing, and enjoy hut life. Murray did a sterling job with the firewood gathering, and Tina with the firewood consuming. One giant native worm was noted on the track, a creature the diameter of a little finger, and maybe half a metre in length.



Photo: Martin Lawrence

Our last day gave us perfect weather. We explored some interesting tussock and rocky crags near the hut, then lunched with a few day trippers at the hut. The final descent followed a lovely forest track, but felt like it was dragging on a bit as the day warmed up. At the top car park, some 5 kilometres before the river crossing where our van was to meet us, and well up on the hill, one trip member decided to take a short cut down a brutally steep firebreak in blistering heat while the others rested in the shade, then hitched a ride on the back of a hunter's ute. We passed one person we had met up on Mt Richmond - he did our trip in reverse, and mountain biked the 15 kilometre road section back to his car. Another friend we met at Mt Fell Hut didn't do our trip because of this humiliating road walk. We were lucky to have a good public transport operator. A refreshing river dip at the end.



Photo: Murray Gifford

North East Ruahines Te Atuaoparara

2 November

Report and photos: Murray Gifford

We were only a party of two and the weather forecast was for a fine day to develop and light winds, so we were hopeful of a great day ahead. I had Warren up at 6.30pm for the two-hour drive. A start from the North Block Road end (just west of Ongaonga) at about 9.00am, the cloud hanging low over all the ranges as we set off.

We stopped to read a bit of the new DOC track signage, all in glass, hope it lasts. Up thru the paddocks and into the bush adjacent Triplex Hut. We had a good walk up thru the beech forest and the sun seemed to be trying to break thru. Some leisurely stops to enjoy the forest. 2hrs to Sunrise Hut, but no sign of sun today, the low cloud hanging about. Stopped for a quick bit and a chat to couple up for the morning, then onwards to Armstrong Saddle. Up the ridge above the saddle and a turn south leaving the track to Top Maropea.

Trampers were Tina Bishop, Terry Crippen, Murray Gifford, Martin and Anne Lawrence, and Tony Gates.

Field Hut

27 October

Report: Duncan Hedderley

Traditionally, Labour Weekend is when people plant their tomatoes out. For eight of us though it was an opportunity to head into the hills behind Otaki and blow some of the cobwebs out of our heads and lungs.

There was plenty of evidence of the August storm, in the form of toppled trees in the bush, and the heavy rain the week before, in small piles of debris by the road where it runs along hillsides. However, the road and the track were open (let's hear it for DoC and the Horowhenua district council), and the weather was kind. I could grumble about how many people we saw * four or five groups coming down as we went up, and a similar number seemed to be coming up with us * but surely it's heartening that kids and twenty-somethings are getting out into the New Zealand bush.

We were Grant and Laura, Andrew, Fiona (hero drivers), Nicola, Annette, Lui from IPC, and Duncan Hedderley



The mist was well down now and we clambered along the top of the large screes to our left and up the ridge to Te Atuaoparara. Thru the leatherwood a faint track wove its way, only 50m visibility so the top never looked threatening, as we could not see it. The track was obvious and straightforward. About 2 more hours to the top from Sunrise. We stopped in dead calm conditions and enjoyed lunch a quick photo stop at the trig in the mist and on thru the various peaks, heading west at one point to avoid bluffs on our left. Map and compass out, we needed to keep going south and dropped down some long screes.

Warren told a story of crossing these with ice sheets one winter, a long drop to the west, but fast travel today sliding thru the scree. A second smaller peak and depression feature caused us to stop and get the compass out again, keep south but over the top we needed to veer east a bit to hit the Waipawa Saddle. Some confusion in the mist, headed for obvious ridge ahead, but in the wrong direction, compass out again, veer east a bit, finally we found a couple of cairns and we were on our way down. Within half an hour we were on the saddle and the cloud just above.



Down through the tight leatherwood to a steep scree and dropped into the river proper. A few photos of the flaxes and mist as we descended. A long trip down the riverbed to the road end and the last half hour thru the farmland and back to the car. 8hrs round trip, we felt that was pretty good.

Coffee in the Ongaonga general store and home we headed, a good day out with plenty of exercise.

Trampers were Warren Wheeler and Murray Gifford

Long Pitbash at Longview

1-2 November

Report: Terry Crippen

With a nor-wester forecasted, we were not surprised to be greeted by impressive pressure waves in the clouds as we headed into the Kashmir roadend. Unfortunately DoC, in its wisdom, has recently re-metalled the last steep section of the access road, making it impassable for 2WD vehicles. This at least increased the amount of tramping we were to do for the weekend.

Heading up the spur we were soon into gale force or stronger winds. On one occasion I was bodily lifted up and sent flying. Fortunately I managed to grab hold of some of the vaguely unshattered rock above a gully face, before being transported further east and down-slope. It was very apparent what we were going to be

doing once we reached Longview Hut – pitbash for most of the day, along with eating and reading. The food selection was quite diverse ranging from the usual trampers pasta meal to Russian green-tea flavoured chocolate. Likewise the reading matter; from the Economist, through to the Australians Woman’s Weekly.

Throughout the afternoon and night the hut alternated between mild shaking and solid shuddering with the wind. But by morning the wind had dropped and we had a pleasant dampish whiteout. We at least did a bit of a loop back to the vehicle via the ridge to the north and picking up the Daphne track. Such a short tramp necessitated us calling into Norsewood for freshly baked scones, jam, whipped cream and coffee for lunch (or was it morning tea)?

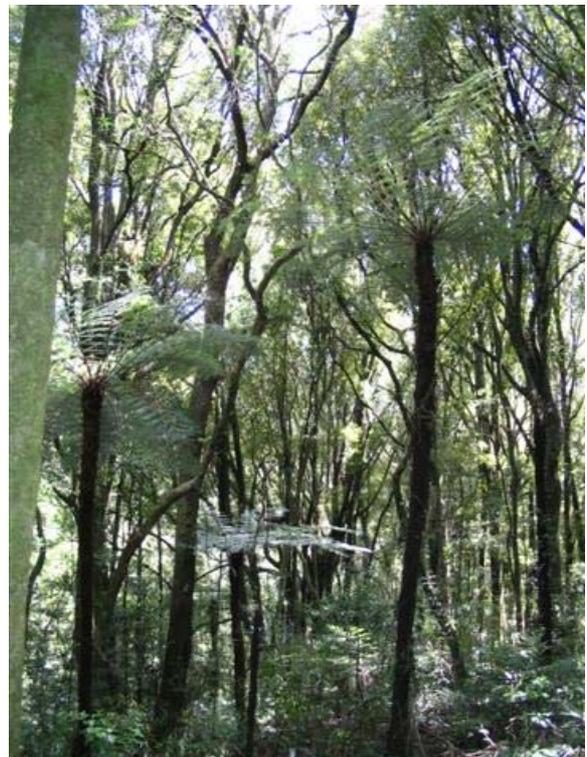
We were Peter Wiles and Terry Crippen

Botanical Tramping Manawatu Gorge Track

9th November

Report and photos: Murray Gifford

Peter collected us from the gate and Countdown at 9.00am and we were on our way at 9.30am. First we had the weeds on the banks of the Manawatu, wandering willy and periwinkle (with purple flowers) that smother the ground and the old man beard, which smothers the canopy, broom, willows. Peter had a story of Forest and Bird planting northern Rata above the road at the gorge entrance, a long-term project to form an entrance of red to the gorge.





On up the stream and onto the spur leading to the tops, with lots of stops along the way to identify various species, spying all four climbing rata before too long. These are all vines and are identified by leaf characteristic and red, white and orange berries at various times of the year.

Thru the nikau dominated section of the track and information on the life of the nikau. The lower canopy has ngaio, nikau, akeake, mahoe, pate all indicating the area has been coastal not too long ago.

As we climbed higher the canopy changes to Tawa, the dominant species, with black trunks in a mid green canopy, long slender leaves somewhat like an olive tree. Tawa has large green/purple fruits, which ripen in autumn, also like the olive and the native pigeons feast on these.

The Rewarewa was in flower the red clusters (racemes) visible as we walked, the trees breaking thru the tawa canopy, spotted by the serrated leaves on the forest floor. Past one of the last remnants of the giant Northern rata close to the track. Northern Rata was once dense in these forests, but much has been cut down now. The trunk was full of epiphytes and is also a coastal lowland tree. A bit of wind damage on the tops with some large trees crashed to the ground leaving large openings in the canopy for regrowth. Spotted rimu, kahikatea, miro, matai, totara along the tops.



Lunch at the TeApiti lookout and good view out over the gorge, the wind farm and out to the Pohangina valley. Return via same route, concentrating on the ferns, ponga, silver fern, mamaku (with large thick black fronds) and weki ferns (with skirts of old ferns). Lots of supple jack in the undergrowth, along with broadleaf, kawakawa (pepper), ramarama, to manuka. Along the track we were introduced hounds tongue fern, rabbits foot, native rice grass and even some bamboo grass.

We were Peter van Essen (the botanical expert) Margaret Riordon (with stories of the 1500km trek thru France and Spain), and Murray Gifford (photographer for the day).

Stanfield Hut

16 November

Report: Doug Strachan

When three teachers get together, education tends to crop up as a topic of conversation. Nonetheless, we did find time to discuss other issues, like why Labour lost the election. Margaret's 1500km walk through France and Spain, and how that compared with a tramp up to Stanfield, was another popular topic.

We took the Holmes Ridge route, reaching the river after a couple of hours. "Ow ow ow ow!" said Margaret. What, don't they have Ongaonga in Europe Margaret? "There is an upside to getting stung by Ongaonga," I told her: "Now we have something to put in the trip report." "There's another upside," she replied: "My hand is too sore to write it."

We carried on to the hut for lunch. John diligently wrapped up some broken glass he found in the grass and put it in his pack (End of Year Awards Committee take note).

Heading out down the river, clematis, tuis and greywacke kept us company. There was a strong smell like beeswax in the air, but nobody had waxed their boots. Eventually, searching the vegetation for clues, I spotted some balsam poplars. Getting poplar balsam on my hands left them reeking, but rather than than the sting of Ongaonga.

We nipped down Pinfold Rd to Woodville for ice creams - fierce nettle antidote. John introduced me to "Yummy Mummy's Cheesecakes" shop. They had 20 flavours of cheesecake. The Maple and Walnut is divine, although at \$7.50 for a punnet no more than 10cm in diameter, I did get 'stung' in the end. Home and in the door around four.

We were John Feeney, Margaret Riordan, and Doug Strachan

Matiu/Somes Island

15-16 November

Report: Warren Wheeler

Photos: Janet Wilson

Kia ora and welcome to Whare Kiore on historic Somes Island, a tranquil retreat here in Wellington Harbour. Please empty all your gear on the floor and check there are no rats, while (rustle, rustle) I tell you about the wildlife that has been (rustle, rustle) introduced here since the eradication of rats and other pests in the late (rustle, rustle) 1980s.

But first a little history. The island has been used as a quarantine station for both humans and animals. A small memorial shows that young children were the most frequent victims from 1872 until 1920. Animal quarantine continued until more recent times. During the world wars it was also home for enemy aliens (men only) considered a security threat.

On the summit are the remains of five gun emplacements that were used for anti-aircraft guns. A small lighthouse on the south end of the island still guides boats into the harbour. A track around the island takes about 45 minutes at a leisurely pace enjoying the harbour views and looking out for wildlife.



Most of the native vegetation has been planted by volunteer groups since 1981. This has restored much of the livestock paddocks around the island flanks and gullies. Historic links have been preserved by not cutting down the large macrocarpa trees that provide roosting for seagulls. They seem just as happy just nesting in the grass, even right beside the track.

A few sheep help keep the grass mown around the aging quarantine buildings, barracks, and the five houses still in use. Two of the houses are for DoC staff and the others are available for public use. A camping area beside the old tennis court has access to a kitchen, lounge and toilet facilities. All the buildings are clustered on the flat open area in the middle of the island, a short walk up the steep road from the jetty.



After settling in and setting up our two tents we went exploring and soon slipped into "island mode". There were plenty of other people coming and going via the regular ferry service, but not at all crowded. We spotted a skink sunning itself in the rather feeble sunlight, kakariki screeching and whizzing by, seagulls nesting and circling overhead, a tame thrush, fantail, and robin. After nibbles and dinner and chatting to the DoC Ranger for a few hours it was about 9.00 o'clock and time to go hunting Giant Cook

Strait Weta and tuatara, both of which had been introduced to the island from other island sanctuaries.

Sure enough there they were in the grass, coming out from hiding under the Field Centre building. Like baby armadillos (as thick as your finger), very placid but fearsome looking barbs on their hind legs. We sat down by the jetty waiting for little blue penguins to appear and, just as we were thinking we were too late, one walked right over Graham's foot!

Careful searching along the track seemed fruitless but then we spotted one tuatara and later another popped out of its burrow just beside the track as we went past; then it too scuttled off into the undergrowth. Even if we were allowed to take photos it would have been too quick (they don't like being blinded by the flash). Awesome! Walking with dinosaurs. Cool!

We left on the 10.30am ferry before the crowds and home on Sunday by 3.00pm.

Thanks for organising this cruisey trip, Janet.

We were Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, Warren Wheeler, and Richard Lockett.

Final photo: Mt Richmond taken by Tony Gates on the Richmond Range trip

Land SAR Search and Rescue Conference

21-23 November

Report: Anne Lawrence

The biennial Search and Rescue conference was held this year at Massey in PN. This was an excellent opportunity for us locals to attend – so it was a little disappointing to have only a small number from PNTMC amongst the 335 attendees.

However, the three of us who did attend found it really worthwhile. There was a wide range of topics covered - new mapping projections, tracking and search techniques, survival timeframes, lost behaviour research and water hydrology were just some of the sessions that I attended. There were also a number of interesting case studies of recent searches – in New Zealand as well as further afield, with speakers from Britain, Iceland and Canada.

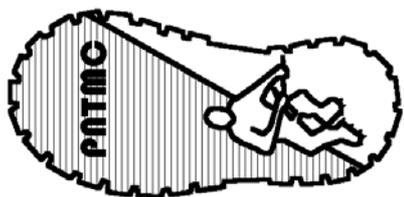
There was lots of new learning for me. I now know something about the dinner fork deformity, reverse rollers and photogrammetry – these were just some of the terms I came across that I had never heard of before! As well as learning heaps, I found it a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Thanks to Manawatu SAR for funding me to attend. Thanks also to Fonterra for funding a total of eight locals including Janet and Graham..

We were Janet Wilson, Graham Peters and Anne Lawrence.



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P.O. Box 1217,

PNTMC Newsletter

December 2008
- January 2009

What's Inside this month:

- *Upcoming trips and club events*
- *Reports on recent trips*
- *News from Department of Conservation about tracks and huts*
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Get out and about with us!
www.pntmc.org.nz

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Snowcraft Programme	Terry Crippen	356 3588