

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter September 2015



Foxton Beach walkers follow the Manawatu River down to the mouth [Martin Lawrence]

Club Nights

All are welcome to our club nights. These 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.

10 September

Kilimanjaro

Stefan Thompson

Stefan is a self confessed "travel and outdoor enthusiast" who went on an 8 day hike to the top of Mt Kilimanjaro, Tanzania in August 2014 following the Lemosho route.

24 September

Interclub Photo Competition

Martin Lawrence

Tonight we get to enjoy the crème de la crème of winning photos from the MUAC, MTSC and PNTMC club photo competitions. An ideal opportunity to hear from our expert independent judge, Udo von Mulert, about what makes a great image.

Upcoming Trips

5-6 September

Pourangaki Hut **M**
Michael Allerby **323-8563**

Deep in the Ruahines and a great place to visit.

5-6 September

Mitre/Whangaehu Hut **F/T**
Derek Sharp **323-3028**

Friday night to Whangaehu Hut. Various options for climbing Mitre. Fitness and Snowcraft 3 is a minimum requirement, with the idea of pitching.

6 September

Archies Lookout **E/M**
Peter Wiles **358-6894**

We will leave at 8.00 am and head towards Levin and past the Waiopahu turn off behind Levin to the start of the track. There is a good size stream to cross on the farmland before getting onto the track proper. We can go beyond the lookout to the top another 150 m above. (The track continues along the top to eventually reach the Mangahao Road near No.2 Dam.) Back by the same route.

5-13 September

Mt Travers, Nelson Lakes NP **M/F,T**
Annett Patzold **021 189 4647**

We meet in St Arnaud Saturday night and leave the next day early in the morning for Coldwater Hut (using boat service). Then follow the long Travers Track past Cupola Track, continue up Summit Creek until the bushline where we camp/bivvy. Next day climbing Mt Travers if conditions are right. We then could spend the night at Cupola Hut or John Tait Hut depending on what else we want to do and what the conditions will be. There are several options: Walk straight out the way we came in or attempt Mt Cupola then walk out and/or walk out via Robert Ridge. There are several choices for getting onto this ridge. Crampon/iceaxes will be required (hopefully).

12 (Sat) September

Gorge Walk **E**
Gina Fermor **359-0096**

Enjoy an easy walk on this very popular track with outstanding forest and high lookouts over the Manawatu Gorge and wind farms.

12-13 September

Kahui Egmont **M**
Warren Wheeler **356-1998**

Kahui Hut is just over 2hours up from the

roadend on the western side of Mount Egmont. We will base ourselves here and take an old route to the summit. Bring ice axe and crampons. Reconnaissance on Saturday and climb on Sunday depending on the weather. Depart 6.30am..

19-20 September

Ngamoko Hut **M/F**
Craig Allerby **323-7913**

Depart 7.30am. From Limestone Road end, the plan is to head up the Shorts Track to the top of the Ngamoko Range. We then travel south to southwest along the tops for over 2km to the marked track down to Ngamoko Hut (which the club now maintains). It's a steep descent, but worth the effort to a great hut beside the Pohangina River. Return out by the same route in.

20 September

Zekes Hut **M**
Chris Tuffley **359-2530**

Zekes is in Hihitahi Reserve that overlooks Waiouru. It's quite a long way to go for a day trip but well worth it even if views to Ruapehu are obscured by cloud.

26-27 September

Climbing TBA **F/T**
Grant Christian **354-5843**

A climb up the south side of Girdlestone is my first option but as usual with any alpine adventure the final plan will depend on weather and snow conditions. Be prepared for some belaying. May depart Friday night if conditions look better for Saturday.

27 September

Blue Range Hut **E**
Woody Lee **357-2390**

Depart 8.00 am. An easy hike in the Tararua FP near Masterton and it is a fairly steep hill at the beginning but a pleasant walk to the hut. There is a picnic table outside the hut for lunch overlooking the tops. Retracing the same way to the car park and a relaxing afternoon tea at the Mt Bruce café will be an option.

3-4 October

Atiwhakatu Hut **E**
Woody Lee **357-2390**

Depart at 8.00 am. It will be a day or overnight trip depending on majority vote. The Atiwhakatu track is a 5.5 Km track along Atiwhakatu Stream and walking time is just over 2 hours (one way). This trip will be an opportunity to enjoy both the bush walk and various types of bridges in the track.

4 October

West Ngauruhoe

M/F

Warren Wheeler

356-1998

Depart 6.00am. A classic spring climb to the summit of Mt Ngauruhoe via an old route up the western side. Crampons and ice axe essential.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trampler should expect 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 (T)

Instructional (I)

Trip participants

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

Gear for trips

Minimum gear for day trips is appropriate footwear, pack, lunch and snacks, waterproof jacket, overtrousers, gloves, warm hat, torch, toilet paper, matches or a lighter, sunblock, first aid kit, and a survival bag or space blanket. Each person needs to be equipped to survive overnight.

Personal Locator Beacons – Free for trips

The club has purchased two PLBs for members' use. If you want to take one of these on a trip, contact Martin or Anne Lawrence on 357-1695. Note that this applies to any trip you are going on - it doesn't need to be a club trip.

Trip leaders

Complete the trip intentions form and leave with one of Overdue Trip Contacts or drop into 44 Dahlia St or email to pntmctrips@gmail.com with the date and trip name in the subject line. If you are unable to run your trip as scheduled, advise a trip coordinator as soon as possible so that alternatives can be arranged.

Overdue Trips

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:

Janet Wilson 329-4722

Martin and Anne Lawrence 357-1695

Malcolm Parker 357-5203

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Warren Wheeler, the newsletter editor, direct or via our web site <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>

Notices

PNTMC 50th Anniversary 2015

Plans are under way to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary and Camp Rangi Woods at Totara Reserve has already been booked for the last weekend of November 2015.

A Jubilee book is also being prepared as a record of events and activities over the years.

If you have any ideas or are interested in assisting then please contact Dave Grant who is heading the organising sub-committee of Terry Crippen, Peter Darragh, Doug Strachan and Martin Lawrence (Treasurer).

We would like to invite past members to join in the celebrations so if you know of anyone please let them know or give Terry their contact details.

Tararua Hut Bagging Results

As mentioned in previous newsletters, following the success of our previous Ruahine hut bagging and peak bagging competitions, PNTMC has been running a hut bagging competition focused on the Tararuas.

The challenge started on 1 July 2014 and ran over 12 months until 30 June 2015.

The rules aimed to encourage trips into the Tararuas, with extra points for first visits, club trips and overnight stays.

- 3 points per visit to Tararua hut, bivvy, shelter, Holdsworth Lodge etc – as long as they are on DoC website. **Only 1 point for 2nd and 3rd visits, not 3 points.**
- 1 extra point if the visit is on a club trip.
- 1 extra point if you stay the night. (One hut only per night) Camping outside crowded huts counts.
- 1 extra point for a first visit.
- All other DOC huts in the country - 1 point per visit (no extra points)

- All huts maximum of 3 visits to count for points.

A total of 624 hut visits were recorded by Janet Wilson for the 41 members who took part.

354 visits or 57% were to Tararua huts, which made up 1405 or 84% of the total 1675 points. Although the focus was clearly on the Tararua there was a staggering 156 different huts visited over the year, ranging from Fiordland to Te Urewera.

Hut images were emailed to Martin Lawrence, who then had a tricky selection task for the poster he has created.

Posters of the Tararua Hut Bagging will be available for sale shortly, with proceeds going towards our hut maintenance fund.

Final scores were announced at the club night finale on 13 August, with various achievement certificates being presented and a hot-off-the-press copy of the new hut poster being presented to the three highest point scorers.

Although these were the final results it was acknowledged that despite best efforts there may well be some errors and omissions and indeed there were some disputed results on the night. However all agreed that the final results served the spirit of the challenge, and in any case there was no way Janet was going to invest any more time in the project (!!!).

So here are the final points, with apologies for any omissions and errors.

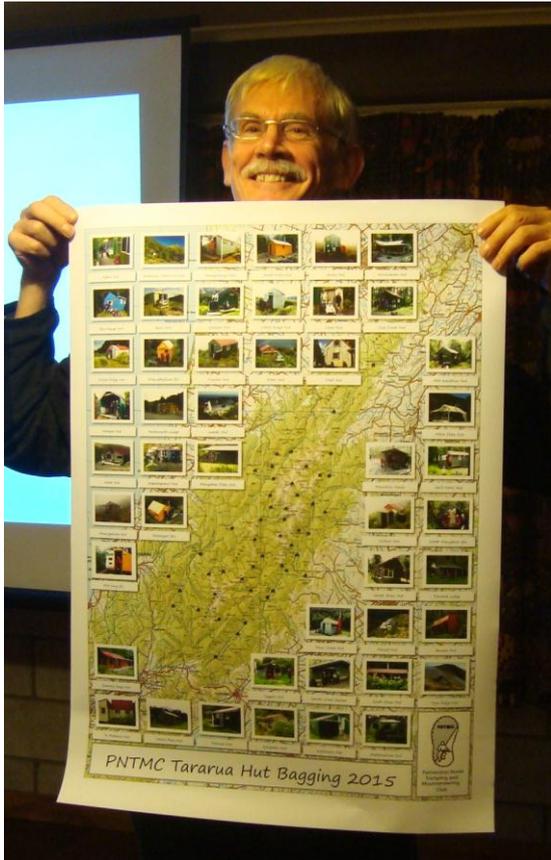
Top 10 Hut Baggers

Name	Total	Tararua Huts	
		No. Huts	O'nights
Warren W	48	11	25
Janet W	43	4	16
Mary L	35		4
Chris T	32	8	7
Woody L	30	7	9
Graham P	29	2	10
Grant C	29	3	3
Bruce vB	27	1	
Angela M	23	1	2
Hannah L	22		
Nick A	22	7	5

Total Points Table

Name	Points
Warren W	253
Janet W	180
Woody L	113
Graham P	105
Chris T	86
Grant C	79
Mary L	70
Mike A	70
Craig A	65
Richard L	64
Graeme R	59
Angela M	52
Nick A	50
Geoff P	45
Bruce vB	39
Terry C	38
Hannah L	35
Raj P	34
Martin L	29
Karen T	26
Anne L	23
Kathy C	18
Nicola W	18
Alistair M	16
Lizzy K	14
Kathryn P	11
Blair K	10
Sally H	8
Yvonne V	8
Jo O'Halloran	7
Lawrence O'Halloran	7
Andrew K	6
Chris K	6
Tina B	6
Duncan H	5
Peter VE	5
Peter W	4
Chris S	3
Dave G	3
Sue P	3
Dwight S	2
TOTAL	1675

Congratulations, everyone!



Warren and new poster [Woody Lee]

Whio Trio Strike Again

Richard Lockett roped in Janet Wilson and Tina Bishop to make up a team for the Santoft Sizzler, a MTB Fun Relay on 9 August. Little did Richard know that he would end up in a blue tutu and blue wig cycling for Team Whio Trio, promoting the Ruahine Blue Duck Project. Whio Trio first gained notoriety at the City Safari Rogaine in Wellington earlier this year (same costume, different co-members). Whio were the winners on the day. Well done, Janet. Well done, team!



Whio Trio ready to fly [Janet Wilson]

Gossip Column

From our roving reporter Terry Crippen.

Nigel Scott's wedding

Derek, Ange and Terry went up to the Waikato for Nigel Scott's (ex PNTMC member) and Wendy's wedding. LOTS of Karaoke singing, the three of us managed to get up and sing "We are the Champions" and the odd Elvis song!

Trip Reports

5 July 2015

Foxton Beach Walk

Lovely day out. Thanks, Tina.



Beach bums in the sun [Martin Lawrence]

22 -24 July 2015

Hinerua Hut to Waterfall Hut Raj Palanisamy

First time experience in snow, in the fearsome Ruahine Ranges!

Team leader Derek Sharp and I set out to Waterfall Hut via Hinerua Hut. It all happened like this: I have seen Derek Sharp around a few times in the club meetings, but never had the chance to introduce myself to him. It was only recently that I got the chance to have a brief conversation with him, and after introducing myself I asked so many questions I was surprised I did not manage to chase him away! After that I constantly contacted him, by all the possible ways to take me on one of his trips.

Being a new member, whenever I approached the team leader to join their trip I was asked about my previous experience in tramping.

Predictably, he enquired about my previous tramping experience and my fitness level, though I was little concerned about the question I did not want to downgrade myself so I said I was fit enough to go with him! He explained that tramping in the snow involves technical expertise. I mentioned about my lack of experience in the technical aspect (without understanding what the technical part of tramping was!) and I also mentioned that I was about to have a course on snowcraft, so he agreed to take me on a trip after that.

As it transpired, the snowcraft course was postponed, and as Derek wanted to take advantage of the forecasted weather window, I went without any snow experience. So I had not realised that I had to have fully shanked leather footwear, crampons, ice axe etc. Derek would have imagined that I was fully equipped for the trip, so when he called me to inform me of the trip, I reluctantly told him that I did not have any of the above mentioned equipment.

He must have been surprised about my ignorance!! However, he suggested that I could borrow boots of my size from any of the fellow members in the club (but I was embarrassed to ask other members to lend me their boots!). Realising my reluctance Derek himself called Bruce van Brunt and explained my situation, who was kind enough to lend me a pair of his boots which happened to be my size. As I so enthusiastically wanted to go on the trip I bothered Terry Crippen for hiring the crampons and ice axe and collected them at his residence on Wednesday just before we left for the trip. That means I saw those things or the first time just before I left. Bruce and Terry gave lots of advice and suggestions about the techniques and safety issues involved in the trip, though I still did not realise the seriousness of the technical issues that I was not aware of at that time.

The weather forecast could not be better for those three days and I managed to gather all essential gear for the trip. Derek explained to me every step of our planned trip including the meal plan and the timings. He also provided me with a few things which I did not have for the trip. Derek came and picked me up at 1 pm sharp on Wednesday and we headed towards Ashley Clinton off Napier Road en route to Onga Onga. By the time we reached the car park it was about 3.30 pm or so.

We got ready and started walking. There was a small slip on the track just before the Tukituki

River but that was very manageable. By the time we reached the forest, after crossing the river thrice and a small stream once and following a meadow, it was dark and we had to use the headlights to proceed on towards Hinerua Hut. The track up to Hinerua isn't a long walk, and although it is uphill all the way it is a good track. Needless to say, by that time Derek had assessed my fitness level and encouraged (??) me by saying, "what are you pausing for"... "Keep walking"!!!! We reached the cosy little four bunker hut around 7.30pm.

At the hut we lit the fire and had our dinner. After chatting a wee while, we went to bed. I could not sleep because I had had very sad news on that day, as I had heard Professor Michael McManus at Massey University, who was my ex colleague and well wisher, passed away at the age of 57.

We got up at 5 am on Thursday morning and started at 6.30am towards Waterfall Hut, an older hut in the head of the Kawhatau River in the heart of the *Ruahines*; following the long Hinerua Ridge to reach the most interesting bit of the Ruahine tops, around Paemutu and Broken Ridge. When we reached the alpine tussock covered ridges the sun was just coming out showing the windswept place of awe and beauty, the colourful sky took the breath away, and in that moment my mind became clear and joyful. The stretch south of spot height 1715 (south of Rangioteatua) on the main Ruahine Range looked pretty intimidating, with a significant pinnacle a little over half way along and a hairy looking climb out onto Paemutu, on the aptly named Broken Ridge. Thankfully this wasn't our route.



Derek Sharp and Broken Ridge

From Paemutu we could see Ruapehu and Mt Taranaki very clearly in that beautiful weather. Broken Ridge deserves its name for a narrow knife-edge of rotten crumbling rock. After scuttling over the top of a rather large land-slip

here and there, the gradient of the spur became steeper and slipperier. We followed the ridgeline, avoiding false trails leading onto steep, gravel-on-rock faces.

Gradually the ridgeline widens and the going becomes good as we reach the final westernmost knob (half way down off Paemutu where the ridge starts to drop towards the bush). This is where Derek climbed that real scary knob of approximately 10m or so with sparingly sprinkles of snow, as he thought that might be the track we should follow.

Watching him manoeuvring on the steepest nerve-racking peak, I was petrified and I had my own doubt on my skills climbing that. Seeing my reluctance he asked me to go around the peak and find my own way to avoid climbing the peak, so I did. When I reached the other end of the peak from where I was expecting Derek to climb down to meet me, I could not see or hear him. I looked at the terrain of the other end of the peak and it was impossible to climb down for anybody, including Derek, who is a master of manoeuvring over any difficult terrain in my experience with him. For a second I switched on to panic mode and started shouting his name, but no answer (obviously he could not hear me from the other side of the knob).

After almost five long agonising minutes I heard him telling me to keep walking! I was so relieved after hearing his voice. He explained that he had to put on his crampons to climb back down that, such difficult terrain of rock face. At last we reached the bush line track with soft snow, on which I had a few experiences of sliding down among the bush!

Derek was telling me that Waterfall Hut has been kept as an historic hut, so the traditional open fireplace hasn't been replaced with a wood-burning stove, as has been done for many of the Ruahine huts. Consequently, until the fire is burning strongly, you have to keep one or both windows, and possibly the door, open at least a little or the hut fills with smoke and asphyxiates. At around 4.30 pm we reached Waterfall Hut, only to find out the last occupants who had stayed forgot to shut the door and they did not put the mattresses up and did not pack out the rubbish when they left, consequently the hut became a possum's resort!

The hut was in such a mess with possum's excrement all over the floor and on the mattresses. *After walking over 10*

hours we found this mess which made us a little angry. We started cleaning up the hut (Derek did most of the work I should say!!). I cleaned the utensils and fetched the water from the river and wiped all the mattresses, benches and table surfaces. After an hour of cleaning it smelled like a place of human inhabitant rather than possum's!! To cheer us up, the new model, a huge Air Force helicopter landed on the river bed just few metres away from the hut with a loud noise.

We were predicting all sorts of theories, such as they were here to rescue people who were lost; perhaps the naughty occupants who rented the hut out to the possums were lost etc. Derek was so excited to see the new model helicopter landing on our doorsteps. We went out to witness the show and the helicopter pilot came over and told us that they were there to practice landing in remote places, so they did twice. We lit the fire and burned all the burnable rubbish (Derek, a good Samaritan, had to carry the rest of their rubbish all the way home) that the previous occupants left to keep the hut warm as it was freezing. In fact the bucket full of water we fetched from the river and kept inside the hut froze on the top a cm or so overnight. We had a nice two course meal (the desert was my favourite sticky toffee pudding) cooked by Derek, and went early to bed on the cleaned mattresses as we had a long day ahead.

We discussed alternate routes suggested by Derek, the pros and cons, and decided to follow the same route by which we came. We woke up at 5 am on Friday morning and got away at 6.30. We said our farewells to Waterfall Hut and started our journey with head lights on towards Hinerua Hut. It was a glorious day, a little cloudy though, but when we reached top of the Pinnacles the cloud line was below in the valley which made the snow peaks look stunning - we were in a magical place!

Derek explained the name of all the surrounding peaks and their elevation above mean sea level. We had very short breaks, about 3 times, but I was so slow keeping up with Derek as usual. Wherever he paused there was a difficult terrain for me to handle, so he waited for me and explained and guided me. He is such a confident man and walked fearlessly on the sheer cliffs covered with snow or gravel to demonstrate my moves. Literally, he could walk at ease anywhere as if he was walking on the beach, he reminded me

of the character “toad” in the X-men movie who could walk on any surface at any angle.

He explained the terrain and the way I should walk with reasons that boosted my confidence very much. I never looked at the cliffs beyond few footsteps except when we stopped for the break because I was so nervous. Eventually I gained the confidence and walked along. By the time we reached Hinerua Hut it was half past four. We had a break for 20 minutes and had a warm spicy instant noodle soup, oh God that was heavenly!! My pace was a little faster as I changed into lightweight shoes, however we soon had to switch on our head lights. We met up with two enthusiastic young hunters who were walking towards Hinerua Hut for the weekend.



Northern side of Broken Ridge with 1673 to right

By the time we reached the meadow after the dense forest it was completely dark and we were having difficulty to trace the track towards the river for a while. After a scramble Derek found the track and started descending towards the river. The crossing of the fast flowing deep Tukituki River at night was not very appealing to me and I started worrying about it. I was afraid of tumbling over in the rocks as we could hardly see the bottom of the water in the feeble beam of our headlight.

To my relief Derek suggested we should cross the river using the pack strap method (I was so pleased after hearing him saying that!!), I had not realised that this is the way to cross a river safely. Under his firm grip at my back I almost floated on the water and crossed the cold flowing water effortlessly. Then off again to the car park, for me the track seemed to be extending forever. It was half past eight when we reached the car park, thus we walked 13.5 hours on that day! We had Indian takeaways (not that we had any other choice at 9.30pm) at Dannevirke to fill our rumbling tummies and

headed home. Amazingly, Derek went for another tramp the following day (Saturday) in the Kawekas with Bruce, getting up at 5 am, while I could hardly move my legs that day!

It was an astonishing trip for a freshman like me to a magical place, and it is a ‘beyond belief experience’. I must thank Derek Sharp for his extraordinary coaching ability and the encouragement he rendered (...keep walking!). I learnt a lot from him. Without him I would not have had an opportunity to visit this amazing place. *I returned, richer in courage, wiser in mind and sorer in leg for the experience.* We are fortunate to have such a remarkable place; a nature’s gift at our doorstep, indeed.

1-2 August 2015 Snowcraft 1 and 2 Raj Palanisamy

Snowcraft 1 and 2 were conducted at Turoa ski field on Saturday Sunday 1st and 2nd of August.

[The two courses were combined over the one weekend due to poor weather on 18-19 July – Ed].

Snowcraft 1

This consisted the following techniques; Introducing essential equipment used in snow and their appropriate use. Demonstrations on how to use crampons and ice axe appropriately to walk on snow.

Self-rescuing techniques in different situations such as slipping down when walking with/without crampons and ice axe, falling in different postures such as facing forward on sitting positions, facing backward on sitting positions, facedown, face up and upside down positions. The instructions were given on how to reach the ice axe and bring it to the correct positions as quickly as possible before sliding long distances to rescue ourselves.

Assessing the snow quality to make decisions in using appropriate techniques; demonstrations were given how to assess the snow compaction methods that will help to make the trip on snow safely.

Using digital and analogue avalanche transceivers, and also using a probing stick it was demonstrated how to locate the presence of human buried under the snow within the

crucial time limit before the person deprived of oxygen supply.



Probing for Dwight's leg [DieterStalman]

Social part of the training

The team of 10 students overseen by 2 well experienced instructors throughout while Grant and Dwight were helping the students to follow the instructions. We had ample time to practice each technique repeatedly, before moving to the next technique.

The quality of the learning environment was enhanced by the trip and accommodation arrangements. The fellow students felt comfortable to interact with instructors even though the age group of the students spanned from 15-50 and various professional capacities.

The day before the course on Friday a group of three (Emily, Grace and myself) travelled with Terry on Friday afternoon from Palmerston North, while Zsofie, who travelled from Auckland on the same day, met with Grant Christian, also from Palmerston North, when she arrived at Ohakune. Barney who owned the bach that we were staying and his son Jessie travelled by their car and arrived around 5pm. Jordan came from Wanganui and stayed in his batch at Ohakune. We all settled in Barney's comfortable bach in a beautiful rural setting. There was a fire place and ample space for sleeping inside and camping outside. On that evening we sat in front of the fire while

Barney cooked our dinner and practiced our rope techniques under Terry's supervision.

Next day early morning, Bruce brought Alex, Dieter, and Dwight in his car around 7 am. We all had our breakfast and headed towards the training ground. The Turoa ski field was fully packed with skiers, but we found our own place to train. Dwight was our experimental human being who has been used to demonstrate real life situations. We half buried him and we rolled him off the slopes etc.

The weather was all right and, although it was drizzling now and then, we could use much of our time practicing in the snow before getting back to the bach for our night stay. We practiced our rope work outside the batch till dark.

Once we settled down in front of the fire the discussion continued about the techniques and the information about snow craft. Most importantly Alex who is an Ambulance officer and a qualified paramedic gave a talk on first aid kit, what to carry and how to use them. That was a very good session and packed with information about the first aid kit and their use, which was appreciated by one and all.



Comfortable rope work [Terry Crippen]

Snowcraft 2

This consisted of the following techniques.

More rope work was demonstrated in real life scenarios such as how to attach with climbing partner by rope and how to organise them to carry around, pros and cons of different knots, pickets, stake, pig etc..

We formed as pairs so that we could practice like climbing partners (pairs were Alex & Raj; Zsofie & Jordan; Emily & Grace; Dieter and Woody; Barney & Jesse).

Belaying using different kind of belaying techniques and climbing a distance up and

down for practising and assessed the locations on snow and used different equipment to test the stronghold of belaying.

To learn to control the rope to which a climber is attached to.

To learn to descend a steep slope or vertical face using a rope that is secured at the top and passed around the body by abseiling.



How many to pull it out! [Dieter Stalmann]



A snowpicket anchor [Dieter Stalmann]

Social part of the training

We all had a good night sleep on Saturday inside the bach but not sure about Bruce's experience sleeping in the car and Barney, Emily and Grace's sleeping in the tent! They all seemed to be invigorated. Bruce and Dwight were checking the weather forecast which was not very promising but it turned out to be really good and much better than on Saturday. Woody arrived from PN. As usual after our quick breakfast we headed back to the training ground. Bruce and Terry demonstrated the different belaying techniques. We were practicing the climbing up and down with partners using those belaying techniques in the morning session to gain confidence for ourselves. Each pair was

monitored closely how we were performing and if and when we were not following the correct procedure one of the instructors who was with us explained and corrected the mistakes with reasoning. Thus the whole morning session went with practising on the snow slopes.

We had our short lunch break and got back to the training session. This time we went to different place where the terrain was with outcropping rocks and cliffs of few metres – mixed climbing - so that we could practise belaying and abseiling techniques climbing and descending a steep slope or vertical face using a rope that is secured at the top and passed around the body.

After our training session we got back to the bach and had a debriefing session in which we discussed and expressed our opinions on how the course went on and how much we learnt from the course. At the end we thanked our instructors, Barney for the comfortable stay and food and Alex for his First Aid kit explanation and packed our bags headed towards Palmerston North except Zsofie who had a long drive home to Auckland and Jordan to Wanganui. On the way we all had a stopover at Taihape McDonald's for our meal, all in all it was a wonderful and useful course that made most of us gain confidence in whatever we intend to do in the future that involves facing the snow capped mountains in around New Zealand. Our heartfelt thanks to Terry, Bruce, Dwight and Grant for their effort to teach us the essential snow craft.

Highlights/ quotes/ comments/ incidents

"Where are you woman, have you gone shopping?" Terry encouraging Zsofie!
"No, undo everything and start over again!"

Bruce's detailed description of techniques with scenarios and examples were appreciated by every student.

People got excited poking Dwight when he was pretended to be buried under snow and thrilled to see him making clove-hitch knots using one hand.

Terry's potato chip addiction!! He would open the chips packet and after a minute he would say take this chip away otherwise I would them all, next minute he would ask for the chips or wander around towards the chips - that was hilarious!!

Notable enthusiasm of Grace's and Emily's outdoor activities!

Zsofie's long trip from Auckland and the wine bottles she supplied to the participants!

Grant's experienced tips and his self practicing style whenever he had a chance to do so!

Dieter's helmet saga!

Zsofie and Jordan's amusing team work as climbing partners!

We were:

Instructors: Terry Crippen, Bruce van Brunt, Dwight Swainson, Grant Christian.

Students: Alex McDonald, Barney Hyde, Dieter Stalman Emily McGimpsey, Grace Miller, Jesse Hyde, Jordan Goldfinch, Raj Palanisamy, Woody Lee, Zsofia Hari.

15-16 August Snowcraft 3

Report pending but you can view Snowcraft 3 images on Facebook, under the "Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering" group site. Lots of them put on by Dieter.

From the Old PNTMC Song Book

At the Jubilee weekend we may have a sing along (thanks to Sue Pither for the suggestion).

The Committee has chosen #7 Tramping the Ranges; #10 Tararua Ranges; #20 Double Bunking as their top three hit songs from "Trudge", the old PNTMC/MUAC song book (second edition). One per month will feature in each newsletter between now and the Jubilee at the end of November.

Here is the second.

10

TARARUA RANGES

If you stand on Lambton Quay
On a Friday night then you will see
In rain and snow the trampers go
To the Tararua Ranges.

*Away, away, with billy and pack,
A-rollicking down the mountain track;
We'll all get lost and never come back,
In the Tararua Ranges.*

Hear them holier and hear them bawl
As up the Marchant Ridge they crawl
And all they see is nothing at all
In the Tararua Ranges.

And now we're bound for Alpha Hut
With dirty plate and greasy bowl
And the girls will have to smarten up
In the Tararua Ranges.

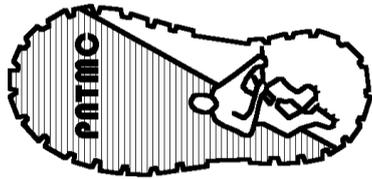
The secretary can't read or write
She sleeps all day and she eats all night
And if she could she'd ride a bike
In the Tararua Ranges.

Our leader's getting old and grey
They say he's sixty-five today
He reached that age by staying away
From the Tararua Ranges.

The treasurer went out on the bash:
He drank up all the petty cash
So he's got some great rock to smash
In the Tararua Ranges.

The chief guide got so old and blind
He lost the track three times today
It doesn't matter anyway
In the Tararua Ranges.

So if you're under ninety-three
And you find your life a misery
You'd better come along with me
To the Tararua Ranges.



Palmerston North
Tramping and
Mountaineering
Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

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PNTMC Newsletter September 2015

What's inside this month?

- Tararua Hut Bagging Results
- Epic Trip to Waterfall Hut
- Snowcraft Course Reports
- Old Song #2 – Tararua Ranges
- Coming trips and more

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Warren Wheeler
the newsletter editor, via the club website
<http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>.

Get out and about with us!

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