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# Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

## Newsletter December 2015

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*Jubilee Celebrations Trip up to the View Point at No. 1 Line*

*[Tim Short]*

### 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 December 2015**

**BBQ - Ashhurst Domain**

**All**

Celebrate the End of Year at the electric BBQs in Ashhurst Domain. From 6.15pm on to dusk, just come when you can. BYO food and drink plus a small "Secret Santa" gift (\$5 say). Come along and enjoy good company, fine food and drink and the presentation of our Annual Awards.

**28 January 2016**

**BBQ - Esplanade**

**All**

Start the year with a splash and share what you have been up to over the holidays. From 6.15pm at the electric BBQs beside the paddling pool, opposite the tearooms. BYO food and drink. Any queries contact Warren Wheeler 356-1998.

## Upcoming Trips

### 5 December (Sat)

#### Two Wairarapa Hills

E/M or MTB

#### Terry Crippen

027 643 3637

Depart 7am from PN; for the first hill named Clyde (502m) in the Rewanui Forest Park (yes that's right it is called a forest park – Montford Trimble Foundation), either by MTB or walk, a good block of native forest and good views. Then lunch at the Tinui pub. After lunch walk up onto Maunsell (359m) next to a world first dating back to 1916 (have a guess)!

### 6 December

#### Holdsworth Waterfall

M

Ange Minto 06 377 1505 / 027 472 0660

Leave Holdsworth car park 8.30am, head in via the Atiwhakatu Track, then head off track following Holdsworth Stream to hopefully come across the 100m high vertical Holdsworth waterfall. Either bush bash our way up over the tops and out via Powell Hut or return the way we've come in.

### 12-13 December

#### Waipakahi, Kaimanawa FP

M

#### Kathy Corner

356-8186

This tramp to Waipakahi Hut in the Kaimanawas is fantastic on a fine day, but is very exposed, involving a lot of tops travel, so the trip will only go ahead if the forecast is good. The plan is to walk to the hut over the Umakarikari Range. The first 2 hours is in the bush and the rest on the tops with magnificent views of Lake Taupo and Tongariro National Park. It is a 5-7 hour walk. We will walk back out the same way. Meet at Milverton Park at 7am. I will make a decision about going on Thursday. Call 0276-185-722 or 356-8186.

### 19-20 December

#### Short Knights

E

#### Warren Wheeler

356-1998

Depart 3.30pm. Enjoy a sunset with wine and nibbles on the Ruahine tops on the shortest night of the year (almost). We will fly camp under the stars on Toka after going up Shorts Track. Return along the main ridge and down Knights Track. Off-weather alternative is to camp at Oroua campsite below Heritage Lodge.

### 17 January

#### Sunrise/Waipawa

E/M

#### Warren Wheeler

356-1998

Depart 7.30am. A classic Ruahine day trip with lots of variety – a good climb takes us through

changing forest to the open tops with lots of alpine flowers in summer bloom. Easy option returns the same way or via a turn off to the Waipawa Forks and down the river. Medium option goes on from Armstrong Saddle and down a big scree into the North Branch of the Waipawa Stream. Possibly meet up with the Easy group at the Forks and down river back to the roadend.

### 23-25 January

#### Wellington Anniversary Weekend

#### Te Hekenga Explorer

M

#### Graham Peters

329-4722

Explore the central Ruahine Ranges at a leisurely pace over this long weekend.

### 25 January (or best weather day)

#### Mania Track

E/M

#### Anne Lawrence

357-1695

We will pick the best day over the long weekend for our tramp up the Mania Track. This is a good track leading through easy forest to great tussock tops overlooking Rangitikei Hut.

### 30/31 January

#### Kaiwhakauka/Whakahoro Track MTB

#### Richard Lockett

323-0948

Leave PN at 7.30am. From Ruatiti Rd end we bike up to Mangapurua Trig and then head down the Kaiwhakauka track to Whakahoro and camp at campsite for the night. Return same way. Any volunteers out there to transport camping gear to Whakahoro, a lovely destination on the Whanganui River, and spend the night with us. Dinner a Blue Duck Cafe extra?

### 31 January

#### Wharite/Coppermine

E/M

#### Warren Wheeler

356-1998

Depart 8.00am. Wharite peak is the one with the big TV tower to the north of the Manawatu Gorge. Turn off after Woodville and follow the road signs to Coppermine Track. This old pack track takes us along Coppermine Creek to a turn off up to Wharite. It is steep at first but flattens out before climbing up to the main ridge. Enjoy being in the leatherwood along to the tower, then great views over the Manawatu and Tararua Districts and beyond.

### 6-8 February

#### Waitangi Weekend

#### Mt Owen (Kahurangi FP)

M/F

#### Annett Patzold

021 189 4647

We go up the Owen massif via Sunrise Peak, spend the night in one of the basins where there is water. The following day we go up to

the summit and explore the rest of the massif, either spend another night up there at tarns at Sentinel Hill or make our way down to Granity Pass Hut. Third day is walking out. Transport either by car, if there is enough people, otherwise it will be possible to organise a shuttle that takes us to the southern start of the trip.

### 7 February

**Beehive Creek  
Doug Strachan**

**E/Family  
353-6526**

This Pohangina walkway, opened in 1983, is just 30km from P.N. My daughter is 10 now and has done this walk every year of her life, the first time in the womb. The creek is generally ankle-deep and sandy-bottomed, making this ideal for all, including families and first-time trampers. Kids like to jump in the deeper bits, so leaving a change of clothes in the car for them is advisable. No dogs allowed. It can still be a workout for anyone who wants to walk the road section (3km, 40mins) of the loop. The walk will be followed by lunch at a picnic spot across the road from the cars. Good social tramp, and you'll still have the afternoon free to mow the lawns. 9am start from Milverton Park.

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

## Notices

### 50<sup>TH</sup> Jubilee a Huge Success

The club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held at Camp Rangi Woods in the Pohangina valley's Totara Reserve over the weekend 28-29 November 2015, starting with Wine and Cheese on Friday night.

The weather did little to dampen enthusiasm for the various tramping, MTB and 4WD trips on Saturday and fined up nicely for the pre-dinner group photo. 80 people attended the buffet style dinner, which was interspersed with speeches, reminiscences and sing-along. On Sunday morning those keen went on the Fern Walk and returned to join the others for a BBQ lunch followed by fond farewells.

Details of these activities are included in Jubilee Report and the Trips section of this newsletter. Check out our website for more photos.

The weekend was a resounding success thanks to the Jubilee Committee of Dave Grant (Chairman), Martin Lawrence (Treasurer), Terry Crippen (Secretary), Peter Darragh and Doug Strachan.

We can now look forward to the 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee. Meanwhile you can keep in touch via Old Boots on Facebook.

**Old Boots Facebook Page**

"Old Boots" of PNTMC Facebook page - over 1,000 photos of old trips - please "Like" the page, wander down memory lane and upload and share any photos you have.

Any questions, you can email Tim Short, [sanctuary@netsmart.net.nz](mailto:sanctuary@netsmart.net.nz)

**PNTMC Jubilee Book**

*Old Boots & Packs - The First 50 Years of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club (PNTMC)* will interest and amuse mountain users, historians, photographers, hut baggers and tree huggers. Read about current and past members' exploits, which include climbing our highest peaks (sometimes with boots on the wrong feet) and powering a car on white spirits cooking fuel.



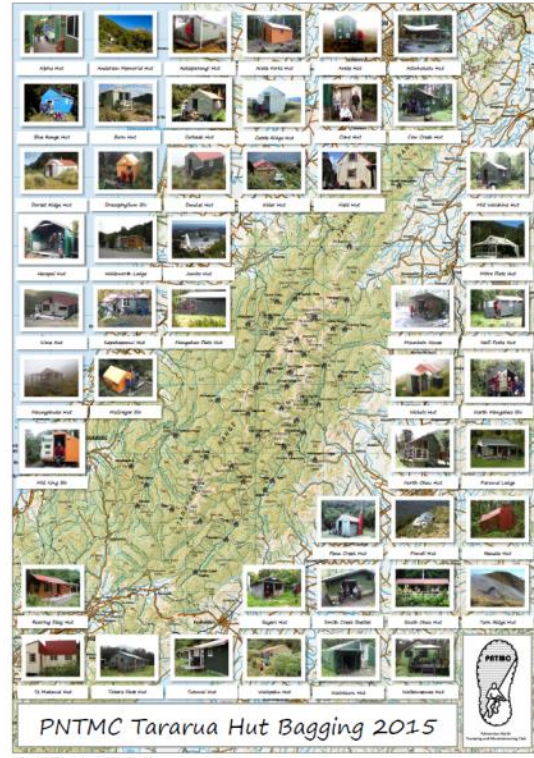
Order your copies directly from the editor Doug Strachan 353-6526 – get ready to put your feet up over Christmas with this great read, all for only \$35.

**For Sale**

**For Sale, rigid mountaineering boots**

Lance Gray is selling his "Sportive Mountain" boots. Size European 45. Rigid shanks and in good condition \$50. Contact Terry (3563-588 or 027 643 3637) if interested. They are at Terry's place.

Also a big THANK YOU to Lance for donating his climbing gear to the club: technical hammer, helmet, harness ATC, carabineer, sling. Thanks Lance.



**Tararua Hut Bagging Posters**

Size	Members	Non Members
A2	\$8	\$12
A1	\$16	\$24

Also available is a similar Ruahine Poster.

Contact Warren 356-1998.

**Coming Up**

**Mangapurua MTB, Saturday 17 January**

Check out this trip on the Whanganui Summer Programme on line. Departs 8.00am from Raeteahi for a 6 hour ride to the Bridge to Nowhere, then a 3/4hr jet boat ride to Pipiriki. \$130. Bookings essential.

**Samoa Winter Getaway**

I am interested in going to Samoa to do a bit of cycling and kayaking at the end of June, anyone keen to join me? I plan to leave on June 25th for one week to 10 days. The reason I have chosen that date is it is the university break between semesters.

For more details contact Kathy Corner 356-8186 or 027-618-5722.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Report



How good are you at recalling the face of someone you last saw 30 years ago, mentally aging the person by 3 decades, and then spotting that person in a crowd of 80 people? You have to allow for the opening up of crevasses, bump slump (the effects of gravity on peaks), loss of (and colour change to) vegetation on the tops, volcanic bulging of mountain sides and alluvial deposits in the lower reaches, tarns drying out causing further surface changes, lengthening of stalactites and stalagmites in caves, and addition of man-made structures over other natural openings.

Given that the person doing these mental acrobatics now has more grey matter outside the head than inside it, we are talking about no simple feat. I think it would be fair to say that at the PNTMC's 50th Jubilee, most of us struggled with this task when viewing the person from a great distance, but performed it quite well once we got a lot closer, provided, of course, that the other person had remembered to affix a nametag.

The weekend of Nov 27-29, 2015, long in the planning, will go down in PNTMC lore as a great success. The jubilee committee had deliberated when, where and how to mark the occasion, with Dave Grant keeping meticulous minutes of each Jubilee Committee meeting at Terry Crippen's or Martin Lawrence's place. We went out and compared venue options,

settling on Camp Rangī Woods in the Pohangina Valley, with its 70 beds, simplicity, ample camping space, large hall and bush setting.

There were former members to track down and invite, including via publicity in outdoors shops, Wilderness Magazine and FMC bulletins. Terry emailed everyone for whom we had an email address. Various people were approached to write special reports or provide photos for the commemorative book *Old Packs & Boots: The First 50 Years of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club*. The book had to be finalised before the weekend, with a bit of a scramble to meet the deadline. I sat with Anthony Behrens from Swampthing for hours while he good-naturedly adjusted his final layout to accommodate my wishes to make last-minute inserts, or search every instance of the word 'hut' to ensure it was capitalised if part of a hut name. You could go on forever doing such tweaking but eventually we sent it off to Greenlees Print in Masterton, which we can thoroughly recommend.

10 years ago I had printed out and cut up 40 years worth of newsletters, gluing each item onto pages with titles like "Recipes," "Field Hut," "Mid-winter feasts" and so on. After I finished, I discovered that Peter Wiles had converted and repaired all the old newsletters into digital documents with text that I could copy and paste, so I started again from scratch, copying and pasting each item into topic-specific electronic files. I had another 10 years of newsletters to dissect before the 50th. Then I just had to read the 500 odd newsletters and select material for the book, liaise with people to get photos and other material. The first draft of the book was 600 pages long, the final product is 140 pages long.

Chris Saunders and I rolled up at Rangī Woods Friday evening, with Chris' car weighed down with 200 books. Terry Crippen, Peter Darragh, Dave Grant and Martin Lawrence had the place all organised. A projector and screen set up in a corner of the hall provided a constant slide show of photos from the mid-60s to the mid-2010s. Nearby were tables displaying antiquated equipment, such as wooden-handled ice axes, Mountain Mule packs, old primuses (primii?), that Peter Darragh had tracked down. Also available for perusal were photo albums (the club one was found at the 11th hour), scrapbooks, display boards, the Trevor Bissell Memorial Trophy and Tararua Trophy. Peter enlisted his

daughter Fran's help to assemble songs to go with Chris Morton's audio-visual set up. They were under strict instructions from Terry Crippen to include Dominion Road and Mike Oldfield's Tubular Bells, but no need for any of that Hip Hop stuff.

Fine touches included a PNTMC sign at the campground's entrance gate, nametags, Trudge-inspired placemats, and a noticeboard with newsletter headers showing how the club logo changed over the years.

Martin Lawrence's registration summary spreadsheet kept track of how many registrations there were (85), how many would attend the Friday Wine & Cheese (24), those who wanted Saturday breakfast provided (cost refunded due to insufficient demand), Saturday lunch (14), Saturday dinner (80), Sunday breakfast (27), and the free Sunday BBQ lunch (37). Every time someone showed up, the person's name was ticked off, and tabs kept on the outflow of books. Martin knew just who had paid and who hadn't. 78 books were ordered, and a few more sold. You can order more anytime via the club. Fifty of the 136 A4-sized pages of each book include photographs. In addition to books, ten caps were ordered, and \$140 of hut-bagging posters were sold over the weekend too.

24 attended the Friday evening wine and cheese, the flavonoids and calcium warding off heart disease and osteoporosis. We munched boxfuls of mini Mt Fujis sent over from Japan by Yuko Watanabe, each a replica of the original volcano but measuring 1/180,000 the

height of the original. We literally ate mountains of food over the weekend.

Saturday was the big day, when the rest of the people arrived. In the morning there were tramping trips to No. 1 Line (we couldn't get permission to take 37 across farmland to Diggers Hut) and the Manawatu Gorge Tawa Loop. Others went up Takapari Road, with the option of mountain biking or 4-wheel driving (these have separate trip reports in this newsletter).

At 5:45pm, we had the group photo, with Dave taking the initiative to order tall people to the front and short people to the back. Martin set up his camera and someone voiced concern that Martin should be in the picture too. Somebody suggested using the self timer, but Martin, grinning, produced a remote from his pocket, showing he had complete control over modern technology. Sounds of awe emanated from the rest of us.

Time then, for the big Jubilee Dinner. Jude (our caterer) and her family team did a wonderful job on both quality and quantity, but must have been staggered by trampers' ability to gobble up all the roast potatoes. She said she'd never seen a group eat so much in all her 23 years of catering. She must have been flat out cooking, which might explain her response to Dave's enquiry as to whether she was interested in tramping: "Life's too short to tramp."



*Celebrating Good Times at the PNTMC 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee*

*[Martin Lawrence]*



*Dinner is served*

More mountains of food floated down our gulleets adrift on un-crossably-flooded rivers of wine. Endless red and blanc plonk. The buffet was varied and delicious (rice, roast, cabbage, salads...) followed by pav, choice of a blueberry or a rhubarb dessert and custard, and 3 kinds of slices. Edith Leary made and brought along a fabulous, moist, boot logo fruit cake.

Self-service tea and coffee were in unlimited supply throughout the weekend. We recalled how, in 2003, Graham Peters got an Annual Award for making coffee using a sachet that Yuko sent over from Japan, but it turned out the sachet was a Japanese hand-warmer.

Warren Wheeler was MC and did a superb job of making sure the evening flowed smoothly. He invited our esteemed president, Bruce van Brunt, to speak, and Bruce gave an overview of the club, followed by a toast. At some point Terry Crippen read out a list of apologies. There was a toast to absent friends.

Sue Pither spoke about the club's early days. She mentioned the importance of not sleeping on the outside when double-bunking as one time someone fell from the third tier bunk, but miraculously survived unscathed. Sue related another classic story of the time when she, Lawson, and Heather Crabb (at the time when the hunt was on for yetis in Nepal), stealthily built a giant yeti outside the trip leader's tent in the dead of night. The game was almost given away when Lawson stepped in a billy someone had left beside the campfire.

Anne Lawrence then spoke about more recent times, including efforts to save the Whio (Blue Duck), and the club's taking over maintenance of Ngamoko Hut and Mid-Pohangina Hut. Too bad that DoC removed the swing bridge after we agreed to look after Mid-Poh hut. Anne also mentioned that the club gets infusions of

young blood when Snowcraft instruction courses result in new members joining.

Kevin Pearce spoke about his first trip with the club on Queen's Birthday weekend 1968, a Winchcombe-Neill crossing of the Tararuas. He, Denis Arnott and Roger Clarke had pitched the tent over a hollow outside Winchcombe bivvy. It began to fill with water, which was kept at bay by a polythene ground sheet turned up at the edges – until the water pressure got too great and the sides folded in. Kevin had been on 2 or 3 tramps with MTSC, but knew at once PNTMC was the club for him, despite the wetting. Such experiences build camaraderie and end up being fun memories.

Stephen Moore stood up and mentioned the influence of the club during his formative years. He was well known for suffering terribly from cramps. One time he was in the back of a car overloaded with trampers and was ordered to lie down out of sight as they passed a cop. At this worst possible time he got cramp. Stephen also recalled tramping with my brother Eric (who might not have formally joined, although my eldest brother Robert joined in 1972 [and married another club member]).

Ian Barnes talked about the early days when the club met at Berry Engineering.

Dennis Moore (no known relation to Stephen Moore) gave a heart-felt eulogy to Russ Lacey (the club's first president), who was a father-figure for him. He told us how Russ became unwell and could no longer tramp, so took up bird watching. He was tragically hit and killed by a milk tanker.

Vern Jensen spoke about how sharing a sleeping bag to keep warm is one way to kick off a relationship.

For old time's sake, we sang a couple of Trudge songbook items (Double-bunking and Tararua Ranges) from the placemats that Dave Grant had laminated (a take home souvenir for the brave). It didn't have any of the dodgy first edition songs, like Downtrou (Downtown song's tune).

On Sunday morning, people had the option of eating a pre-ordered breakfast provided by Jude, or sleeping in and making their own breakfast after Jude had finished with the kitchen at 8:45. Jude provided cereal, fruit, yoghurt, toast, baked beans, spiced tomatoes,

scrambled eggs, sausages, meat patties. We didn't choose between cereal or a cooked meal, but had both, then (st)rolled around the Fern Walk. There were a lot of botanists on that trip so I challenged them by pointing to skeletons of dead trees and asking "What species was that?"

After we returned to Rangi Woods, my wife Maho and our kids Minami (10) and Conan (8) turned up for the BBQ. They saw a mannequin sitting in the front passenger seat of Warren Wheeler's Renault and assumed it had something to do with his sense of humour. It had actually been borrowed to dress up in climbing gear from yesteryear as part of the old gear display. Minami asked Warren what he was doing with a mannequin in his car and the last thing she expected was a straight up answer. She thought it was hilarious when he replied "I'm taking it to Bivouac." Maybe she didn't know what Bivouac means, or that it's a shop, or maybe she thought they were going tramping and staying in a bivvy.

There was more reminiscing over a BBQ lunch, and retelling of our favourite stories. All kinds of tales were told over the weekend, some thought-provoking, like Kevin Pearce's opposition to birthdays occurring once a year. Liz Todd talked about some complicating matters that arise if people oppose 1080, like the natural occurrence of 1080 in some Australian plants and in tea.

Terry Crippen told of the time Trevor Lupton rolled his car and they had to drive home in a vehicle that was now all out of whack and open to the elements. Coincidentally, the car was rolled on the same bend where Trevor Bissell's van rolled in 1978. Obviously the drivers were faultless and the bend was to blame.

Linda Rowan was one of a group trying to build up a profile of Alistair Levy (a non-club member who disappeared [probably down a tomo] on Mt Owen), with whom she once flatted. I said that Alistair once told me an interesting quote and it'd "come back to me in a minute." It did in fact come back to me after I slept on it, so I can tell you now, and sorry that more than one minute has passed. He told me that someone once said that "Anyone who isn't a liberal when young has no heart, and anyone who isn't a conservative when old has no brain" (or words to the effect). Add "deep thinker" to Alistair's profile.

Peter Entwistle and I recalled the time the club had a Vice-Versa Mid-Winter Party and John Barkla did a great job of turning himself into a woman. Trevor Bissell did too, in part thanks to a borrowed pair of his boss' wife's pantyhose. Peter reminded me that he himself came as a woman in an advanced stage of pregnancy.

I had missed the Sci-Fi themed party, but it seems Chris Morton had to be cut free when all the layers of Gladwrap over his body upset his homeostasis.

There was another story about the time certain people, knowledgeable about safety in the mountains, saw others resting on a mattress outside a hut and thought that rolling the people off the mattress in a downhill direction would be a good idea. It was hard to extract details about the perpetrators (who theoretically knew better) and this incident, but it was quite clear that it turned out not to have been a good idea after all, especially from a mountain safety point of view.

Reminiscing was fun, but by and by it was time for people to depart. A number of e-mails have since been received by the Jubilee Committee expressing appreciation for the weekend. Many found the reunion nostalgic and most enjoyable, and the venue met with approval. Altogether a very successful event and the Jubilee Committee are thankful for the feedback and are happy our efforts didn't end in disaster. We appreciate the help received from others along the way (invitations, photos, website, emcee, speeches, gear, cake, music... and cleaning up after the event).

There were some people present at the Jubilee who joined the club in the 60s or early 70s, including Ian Barnes, Vern Jensen, Dennis Moore, Kevin Pearce, Sue Pither (nee Streeter), Randall Goldfinch, Tim Short, Peter Darragh, Denis Arnott, Peter Baxter, Judith McKellow, Mary-Ann Stretton (nee Whitehead), Lindsay Sandes, Adrienne Robertson (nee Thompson). It was an honour to be in the company of people whom I'd read about in early newsletters, but some of whom I'd never met. If anyone thinks important incidents or details are missing from Old Boots & Packs, or wants to jot down clear reminiscences the way Ron Haxton did, feel free to email me.

Doug Strachan (doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz)



## Trip Reports

10-11 October 2015

Kiritaki Hut

Richard Lockett

It's not that we need to or even actually want to go trashing through the southern Ruahine leatherwood belt but if you grind your way up the No. 1 Line track past the lookout there's a good route right over the top and down to Kiritaki Hut - it just needs a bit of traffic over it to keep the route visible. With this intention in mind Warren Wheeler, Alice Mannesvald and I found ourselves grinding up the No.1 Line track on an overcast and windy Saturday that afforded no views of anything till over the top and a brighter aspect looking to the east.

With no sunshine and a cool breeze we pushed on to the hut for a leisurely lunch break. With it still being early afternoon and the weather clearing up as forecast we decided on an exploration of the hut environs particularly of the Oruakeretaki Stream up from where the Maharahara/Kiritaki track crosses it.



Arriving at Kiritaki Hut

[WW]

We found travel up this stream to be easy, nice open bed with grassed shingle banks, so much so we asked Alice to have a go at finding the best route rather than follow us old hands. This was Alice's first off track trip into New Zealand bush having only done the Gorge Walk with the club a few weeks prior and a day's skiing on Ruapehu but being an experienced outdoors type from Sweden Alice was having no trouble at all so far, until around the next sharp bend in the stream and a decent waterfall.

Now for a bit of NZ bushcraft navigation around waterfalls - "up there Alice, just pull yourself up using the vegetation at hand". The best looking route option being the right one, finding markers nailed to trees bringing

reassurance to our visitor that Warren and I knew what we were doing.

Once over the top the stream opened out even more, real nice travel, then it was just a matter of picking up a possible track back up to the hut that we had seen from the hut. A large old grassed slip face looked like a good prospect although a steep climb and half way up on the left there was an opening through the horopito scrub. More markers were found then we headed straight up hitting the track above Kiritaki Hut. That used up a couple of hours and made for an interesting little exploration loop from the hut.

We had the hut to ourselves and, on reading the hut book, most overnight parties now arrive from the west up the No.1 Line. Alice said that climbing up and down the steep stuff hanging off the trees had her outside of her comfort zone but that she could handle it. I didn't mention what I had in mind for the Sunday return leg of the trip.

Sunday dawned cool but with blue skies and it was straight back up into the leatherwood over the top, this time views all around, right out to the volcanoes - great for our visitor.

Coming down towards the lookout point at the top of the No.1 Line track just out of the leatherwood belt we dropped down to our left into a gully, steeply pushing our way down into the head of the Matanganui Stream. Having been down here now a few times and knowing how the going is, "scratchy" is a good description.



Nice stream travel on a hot day

[WW]

Had lunch at a forks then continued on till reaching the waterfall, the one we know is there and a wee bit more of Alice-out-of-comfort-zone climb up and over via a small saddle on the true left and yes, a rope is still there for getting down the other side. More scratchy stream travel followed and with this

part of the stream being sheltered from the prevailing winds etc it got hot and sweaty, summer's on it's way I thought.

Back at the car and plenty of scratches on arms and legs to all, proof of a good weekend in the southern Ruahine's.

## **26 October 2015 (Labour Day)**

### **Maharahara**

#### **Nicola Wallace**

I phoned Peter and asked if he was interested in going on a Labour Day tramp, and he was. It had been years since I'd been up to Maharahara from the Eastern (Kumeti Road) side, and the forecast was good, so off we went. (Peter had been running this trip the week before, but because of the weather it didn't go ahead).

We parked at Kumeti Road end and left the car at about 9am. The stream was a little higher than usual, but clear, but I got wet feet. We had a beautiful sunny morning's climb, and a good view from Matanginui. Just after leaving Matanginui, I found a lovely intact blue egg at the side of the track. (I think it was a thrush's egg). Blackbirds and thrushes were heard singing up here!

Down into the big dip (some gnarly bits here), and the clouds came over. By the time we got up on to Maharahara it was a little misty, so we had a quick lunch, and headed off back down into the mist. A little later, the sun was out again. We had a good walk down, despite me cutting my head on a stick, releasing a bit of blood. We got back to the car at about 3pm.

We were Peter Wiles and Nicola Wallace

## **31 October -1 November 2015**

### **Pouakai Circuit**

#### **Kathy Corner**

Geoff, Warren and myself set off at 7am to tramp the Pouakai Circuit. The forecast was reasonably good and en route we could see Mt Taranaki clearly with an abundance of snow. For some of the journey we had clear views of both Mt Taranaki and Mt Ruapehu. Warren looked at the snow and wondered whether we would need his ice axe but when we got nearer we realized that the lower slopes were clear. We parked at the Mangaoraka picnic area and were on the track by 10.45am. Warren being Warren had decided that we

would do the tramp anti clockwise whereas most people do it clockwise. I had done this circuit twice before but for Geoff this was his first time. By 12.30 we were all hungry so we stopped for lunch just before the Kaiuauai shelter by a beautiful stream. At this point Warren picked up a scarf that was on the track. We met a fellow trumper who told us it belonged to a French girl who was ahead, so Warren was looking forward to presenting the scarf to "ze beautiful young French girl" and getting a few kisses on the cheek!!! However disappointingly we never met up with her.

There is a new flash 2 person swing bridge near the Kaiuauai Shelter so there is no longer the need to wait there if the stream is high (as stated in the Pouakai brochure). It was a long climb up the ridge to Henry Peak through some wonderful goblin forest. We had a few glimpses of Mt Taranaki as we climbed but then it clagged in as it often does. As we climbed higher the wind picked up and the temperature plummeted so just before Henry Peak we put on our warm jackets, raincoats and gloves. At the lookout platform at Henry Peak we found a spot out of the wind and admired the view of New Plymouth and the surrounding countryside. The last 45 minutes of the tramp were cold and windy and visibility decreased. We passed the tarn where photographers get the classic reflection shots and I made a mental note to return there in the morning if the weather was good.

We immediately had a cup of tea followed by crackers and Brie for starters and tomato soup. Geoff cooked up a huge bowl of mince and mashed potatoes enough to feed an army(!), so we ate some of it for him and we offered some to a French couple who had just arrived. They were very muddy as they were tramping in running shoes and had fallen over. However they refused our kind offer, they obviously preferred their tin of cold baked beans as they had no stove!!! We also ate Warren's gourmet venison so we had no need for my Back Country beef teriyaki.

It was freezing cold that night, and the wind howled - so much for admiring the lights of New Plymouth on the deck. There was also no wood for the fire so we were all in bed by 8.30pm.

I woke up at 5.30am to go the loo and realized there was no sound of the wind. There was a bit of colour in the sky so I donned my boots and climbed back up behind the hut to view the mountain in the early light. I then walked

down to the tarn to take a few classic reflection shots. The track was very slippery and I nearly came a cropper on a number of occasions. It was fantastic watching the sunrise, far better than watching the rugby!!



*Early morning at Pouakai tarn*

There was one other trumper with me taking photos, but I left him as I said I had better get back to the hut as Warren would have my porridge cooked and I could not be late!! I walked into the hut and there was my tea and porridge ready and waiting with lids on to keep warm!!

As we left the hut in wonderful sunshine I got a text from Jon telling me the final score of the rugby, so now we had a real spring in our step and could sing Warren's song "I don't want to be a Wallaby!" We climbed Pouakai Peak with Sarah the French girl – magnifique, fantasteek (pronounced the French way!) - what a view. Warren took a photo of me doing my warrior yoga pose and Sarah doing her Cleopatra pose, with Mt Taranaki in the background.



*Pouakai poses with Mt Egmont*

After a longer than anticipated descent we reached the Ahukawakawa Swamp which is pretty amazing. We arrived at Holly Hut and started to chat to an Australian couple, the

woman was quick to point she was really a kiwi as she was born in Taranaki. The husband remained very quiet!

After a side trip to Bells Falls we enjoyed lunch in the sunshine outside Holly Hut and the mountain appeared again briefly. We sidled round the mountain - it was very hot and muggy for a while, then descended through the bush along the Kokowai Track and across the bridge back onto the Whaiwhakaiho track and finally reached the car at 5pm - a long day with all the side trips. The weekend ended with fish and chips at Patea overlooking the beach - a great spot. Thanks for the company, a "fantasteek" weekend!

### **8 November 2015 A-Frame – Stanfield Loop Nicola Wallace**

I had only one call about this trip, and so it was that Warren and I set off from Milverton Park on a fair morning, with beautiful cloud formations over Wharite visible from near Woodville.

We arrived at Tamaki West Road End to only one other vehicle in the carpark, and a cold wind. We left the car just after 9am, and soon warmed up climbing the hill. The track had been trimmed recently, and was in very good nick. In an hour and a half we had reached A-Frame, and while it was still in a dilapidated state, I was pleased to see that at least someone loved it enough to patch up the broken windows. Warren picked up some rubbish from inside the hut, and we carried on.



*Enjoying the stiff breeze on Takapari Road.*

There was quite a stiff NW wind blowing along Takapari Road, and light cloud, but it was a very pleasant walk, with good views to both the East and West. There were even a couple of patches of snow left by the roadside, a

reminder of the cold snap on Wednesday. Nearer the track turnoff, there were fantastically clear views of the three mountains: Taranaki, Ruapehu, and Ngauruhoe. This turnoff on to the leatherwood track was the windiest bit of the whole walk, but it was still easy to stand upright.



*Signpost down to Stanfield*

It was an easy walk along the leatherwood track, with the ground being dry, so no boggy bits. The sun was out now. We saw a few patches of snow up on Takapari. The 45 minutes steep downhill to Stanfield Hut was the easiest I'd ever experienced, again because the track was fairly dry. On the way down, Warren dealt to a large and very branchy windfallen tree that was blocking the track.

Stanfield Hut was delightfully deserted when we arrived for lunch, which we had down near the river. It was cloudy again, but very warm, and becoming more humid. We had an uneventful walk back along Holmes Ridge, with Warren stopping to photograph Clematis flowers. On the steep descent to the stream I heard the distinctive sound of whiteheads, looked up, and saw a parent feeding a large juvenile. We had kept dry feet to this point, but the last river crossing was a little deep, and we both got flooded boots.

My car was the only one left when we got back to the carpark. It was a very good walk. Thanks for coming Warren.

We were: Nicola Wallace (trip leader), Warren Wheeler.

## **14-15 November 2015 Lake Dive, Mt Taranaki Geoff Phillips**

Two of us started walking late morning after the 3 hour drive to Dawson Falls.

We sat and ate lunch on the Hillary Seat looking up at the ever inspiring Mt Taranaki which was looking wonderful in the clear sky. After the Hooker Shelter, came a short five minute detour for a look at Kapuni Lodge. Shortly after we met the Stratford Tramping Club coming towards us. They were a group of about 12 of all ages. They chatted away and were enjoying their return journey from Lake Dive Hut.

Sidling around the mountain we enjoyed the views and spring flowers as we looked down on the area of our return trip tomorrow. We had plenty of time and so walked on past our turn off to Lake Dive to have a look at Bob's Bluffs towering up out of nowhere.

There was no-one at the hut when we arrived. Warren took a brief dip in the shallow lake and I took photos.



*Reflections at Lake Dive*

We had only just drunk our 1st cup of tea and three happy young fellows (aged about 11, I guess) strolled in followed by Dad. So the entertainment began; wood carving, fire lighting and all the usual things kids like to do, topped off with a game of Monopoly played without dice. At some stage between exploring around the lake they unloaded the recently delivered firewood into the nearby shed. It was really good seeing them having such a good time away from the normal life most kids lead.

Sunday's weather forecast was for rain and it did. We headed away on the low track back to Dawson Falls in steady drizzle. Everything looked lush and grateful for it. All was good

until a loud expletive broke the silence; I had just walked under a big tree which was lying over the track. I'm about 5ft 10in so I cleared it, but Warren is 6ft 2in and he didn't - with his rain coat on he walked straight into it with so much force it knocked him to the ground! On our return to Dawson Falls DOC got to hear all about it (!). Otherwise, a really nice walk.

Geoff Phillips and Warren Wheeler

**28th November 2015**  
**Jubilee – No. 1 Line & Beyond**  
**Tim Short**  
**Photos Warren Wheeler**

Nineteen Reunionists left the road-end with vigour through the Ruahine canopy. However, what was that noise? Was it the trees that were knocking against each other, or was it the creaking of old bones! It was impressive to see that the Old Boots had still maintained good fitness and stamina. Randall took the wearable arts award with his see-through Mexican skirt - actually a catchy little see-through number with split zip sides, had us in splits! Randall though, had the last laugh with his dry shorts when mine were wet, clinging and chaffing. As we went higher, it was refreshing to hear the Grey Warbler and the Shining Cuckoo.

We were ever hoping to ascend above the clag, albeit very typical weather for reunion reminiscing. Our optimistic leader, Craig, did provide a rest stop for us that even had its own sign, "View Point" - it's good to see 21st century trampers haven't lost their sense of humour.



*Sue Pither and Sue Cade leatherwood lovers*

We had lunch in ghostly looking bush, or what Sue P. called, a "Gnome Forest". After that, six of us separated and went on for another 30 minutes, while the rest headed back. We were pleased to reach another viewpoint higher with even less view!



*Social climbers on 1011 looking for a view*

On the way back down, we were singing Tramping Songs in rehearsal for the evening's party. We must have really got carried away with our vocals, because the others that had headed back after lunch had already departed in their cars, when us, with our heads in the clouds, reached the road-end. The tramp was a great stretch of the muscles and 50 year commemoration.

Please direct any errors or omissions in person to Tim at the 75th Reunion - see you there!

We were: Angela Minto, Chris Saunders, Craig Allerby, Michael Allerby, Heather Purdie, Ian Barnes, Jonathan Astin and Laura, Martin Lawrence, Anne Lawrence, Nicola Wallace, Peter Baxter, Randall Goldfinch, Stephen Moore, Sue Pither, Sue Cade, Warren Wheeler, Kathy Corner, Tim Short.

**28 November 2015**  
**Jubilee - Takapari Road MTB Trip**  
**Richard Lockett**

When I saw the bike trip down on the events planned for the jubilee weekend in November I thought "yea right" with spring westerly winds the chances of that happening would be remote.

I hadn't been up on Takapari on a bike for a few years now so I was keen to give it a go; we'll see what the weathers like on the day. The five keen riders who fronted up on the day were greeted at Camp Rangī Woods by

overcast sky, just a few spits of rain and calm wind conditions, might be a goer I thought.

We set off from the start of Takapari Road and as we climbed we got a bit more breeze, a bit more drizzle, a bit more gloom and a bit more steeper necessitating a more of a walk than a ride. It gets really steep after the Forest Park gate where the 4x4 trip caught us up, the drizzle turned to rain but we were sheltered from the wind which we knew was just around the next bend maybe? The grade decreases as height is gained on the Takapari so back to riding and another wet squall of short duration, Harley and Annett still only in short sleeve tops!

Onwards we rode still climbing. Big Red Terry's 4x4 appeared out of the cloud heading in the opposite direction and stopped to offer advice as to conditions at the A-Frame Hut which we interpreted as "don't bother". We rode on, still warm and comfortable at this stage but not for long. As the vegetation got shorter we were starting to feel the force of the wind and being wet we started to lose temperature along with enthusiasm quickly so we bailed out. More speed and a slight head wind on the downhill sucked more temperature from feet and hands but the downhill had the red mist descend inside my head and coupled with the grey mist made for two off road excursions.

I was very grateful that my fellow riders didn't seem to be afflicted by the red mist and we all arrived back at the vehicles wet and cold but with no bumps, bruises, breaks, cuts or grazes, nothing that a long hot shower back at Rangī Woods wouldn't fix.

We were Annett Patzold, Tina Bishop, Stuart Hubbard, Harley Betts and Richard Lockett.



*Harley making short work of Takapari Road*

## **28 November 2015 Jubilee 4WD Trip - Takapari Rd**

Three 4WD vehicles headed up (Terry's, Dave's and Arthur's) all full of peoples. We passed the MTBers just inside the Forest Park boundary, some were pushing their bikes up the steep bit.

The weather was grotty, no views and near gale winds when we got into the scrub belt. The ride was bumpy, with a lot of talking and accompanied to the sound of Mongolian, Russian and Kalmykian (excuse the spelling, its the Mongolian Buddhist republic within Europe for those who don't know - part of the Russian Federation) music for a short time, in Terry's vehicle anyhow, don't know what was happening in the other vehicles. We finally got to the grotty A-frame hut as usual in a poor state of repair, thinking DoC had removed it along the way. Had a quick look inside and some nibbles and decided to head back down to the comfort of Rangī Woods for lunch.

We passed the mountain bikers looking quite a bit damp and tired as they headed up into the scrub belt, good job we were in the vehicles. No views were had until we got below the cloud/mist/fog. Not sure what the other vehicles were doing, at least they didn't get stuck on the return journey. Dave's and Arthur's vehicles arrived somewhat later.

Terry Crippen, Fiona Donald, Pete Seebold, Dave Grant, Jo and Lawrence O'Halloran, Trish Eder, Judith McKellow, Lis & Arthur Todd, Yvonne van der Does, Sally Hewson.!

## **28 November 2015 Jubilee - Manawatu Gorge Tawa Loop Doug Strachan**

We started off with 12 on this walk and ended with 8. When Kevin saw me counting heads at the start of the trip he had advised me that good leadership required at least a 90% return rate, so my leadership skills are only fair.

Those of us who had arrived from Rangī Woods met up with Maho and Conan, who were waiting for us at the Gorge Walk car park. Also waiting were reporter Carly Thomas and photographer Warwick Smith, both from the Manawatu Standard. Carly's friendly chat soon saw us drop our guards and open up, sometimes forgetting the recorder sequestered in her pocket. Warwick wore black and took up invisible sniper positions in the bush. I'm sure

that even Nic, who took pains to avoid the camera, preferring to be on the other end of the lens, was shot to bits. A feature article is going to appear in the newspaper before long, so there is no need for a long report here (*yeah, right – Ed*). Carly will effectively write the report for me. She has tramped to places like Digger's Hut, and runs along the Gorge Walk track, so was a kindred spirit and not a fish out of water. None of us were, because the rain set in.

I suggested to Carly that it would be a good idea to speak with Kevin, partly to get out of being interviewed myself, but mainly because Kevin, who joined the PNTMC in 1968, is a font of knowledge about the club. He is a Life Member, past Committee Member and Past President, and has had a great deal to do with search and rescue, caving, and leading trips. He came all the way from Hokitika to be at the Jubilee. He still tramps, but for epic trips lives vicariously through younger people, often hosting those from abroad.

After Kevin gave them enough info for several feature articles, Carly spoke with Nic Bishop, who joined the club back in 1978 and had been on trips with Kevin in both the North and South islands. He has also had a stint as gear custodian and librarian.

After Carly had teased information out of Nic, I mentioned that Peter Clough had been busy on the Wellington District Walkways Committee. I think he, Nanette and I all joined the club around the same time, in 1982.

Also on the trip were the Robertsons, from New Plymouth (John had various cycling tales, and Adrienne was an early club member), and Sarah Hird from Wanganui, who got up close and personal with Whatonga.

Maho and Conan had to turn back early in order to pick up Minami after her Peter Pan rehearsal, but they would come out to Rangī Woods on the Sunday. Carly and Warwick also did not have time for a four hour tramp, as Carly was appearing on stage that evening, but they accompanied us as far as the lookout above the place where a slip closed the gorge road for over a year, including most of 2012. This is the point where the track loops back to the Ashhurst end, and there is a 6m high sculpture of the Māori warrior Whatonga. Putting any structure other than a hut, bridge or trig in the Tararua's risks eliciting the wrath of trampers, but we were unanimous that this

work of art was magnificent, and its grey colour did not clash with the surroundings.

The time Carly and Warwick had spent with us coincided with the worst of the rain. We said our goodbyes to them and carried on to the next lookout. It was very windy, so we retreated into the bush for lunch, then made our way back to Whatonga, from where we took the other side of the loop track back to the cars.



*Tawa Loop walkers*

When we got back to Rangī Woods, the day had turned beautiful, conducive to hanging around outside and chatting. I think we had been relatively sheltered in the bush, and fared better than the exposed Takapari Road mountain bikers.

Those present at the start of our trip were: Adrienne and John Robertson, Kevin Pearce, Nanette and Peter Clough, Nic Bishop, Sarah Hird, Maho Strachan, Conan Strachan, Doug Strachan, accompanied by Carly Thomas and Warwick Smith from the Standard.

### **5 December 2015 Scrambles up Clyde and Maunsell Terry Crippen**

Both of these knobs are in central Wairarapa; Clyde (503m) is in Rewanui Forest Park (Montfort Trimble Foundation) and Maunsell (359m) is in the Tinui Forest Park.

We decided we would take the MTBs up Clyde (good steep greywacke slopes), so soon after hopping on the bikes from the car park we needed to demount and push them up the steep and long grass track. This was made extra hard work by the gale force winds. Once on the ridge line we tried to cycle but got

buffeted by the wind. Leaving our bikes about 50m from the top we scrambled onto the summit; Ange via the ridge line, the other three of us up the track. It was often a case of being blown over by the wind! A bit of a rest on the summit then back to the bikes and using a sheep track we crossed over to the steep downhill track. Richard was off like a rocket, Ange following in hot pursuit; Kathy and I a bit more sedately.

Once back at the car park we decided to walk the Totara and Matai Loops, both a bit overgrown - some very impressive old big totaras. Then it was off to the Tinui café and bar for lunch; homemade pie (with tomato sauce), salad and a flat white all for \$13! Good value. Tinui was the first place in the world to have a formal ANZAC Celebration in 1916.

Then it was off to the start of the Tinui ANZAC Walkway, leaving our vehicles at the cemetery car park. A huge big concretion just by the start of the track. Bob Maunsell found it on a forestry block, then someone nicked it, so he told the police and put a note in the newspaper. It got returned and last month he put it by the walkway (after consulting me as a geologist –I reckon it's Whangi Formation).

Off up recently planted areas in native trees then through a pine block (and some FRI trails), then onto some farm land –more gale force winds - then into a QE2 covenant area and a good track. A rest before the steep climb on hard sandstone (people go rock climbing on the slabs, but it's a bit hard to put in protection). Once on the ridge, a bit of a farm track, for access by vehicle for ANZAC events. Then onto Maunsell, the second beaconed trig – at least there are a few left. Then over to the ANZAC Cross with good views down to Tinui and about.



ANZAC Tinui Cross

[Ange Minto]

Heading down the other three did the short loop, I wandered down to the junction. Some big pine cones for Ange to collect.

Then it was ice-creams opposite Henley Lake, then lemonade, tea, strawberries and biscuits at Ange's place. It was a very hot day. We were Ange Minto, Kathy Corner, Richard Lockett and me.

PS: due to the forecast for Sunday Ange and I decided to scrub the trip to the Holdsworth Waterfall (real name McGregor Waterfall, but not marked on current maps). Holdsworth Stream would be up and very hard to cross repeatedly. Come Sunday it was raining most of the morning.

## How to Spot a Stoat

**From the Oroua-Pohangina Blue Duck Protection Project November 2015 Newsletter**

I have been getting an increasing number of weasels reported. They are all recorded as stoats as I am not confident that they are all being identified correctly. New volunteer Sue Moore has put together a guide and if you feel confident you have correctly ID'ed your catch, I will record weasels as well. See Sue's article below.

### Identifying mustelids

There are three types of mustelid in New Zealand – ferrets, stoats and weasels. After spending several weeks rotting and being scavenged in a trap, they're not always so easy to tell apart.

If you want to try to figure out what species it was, here are a few tips.

Stoats are the most common, and are medium-sized (adults weigh around 200–300 grams). They are the only mustelid with a black tip to the tail, and they keep this black tip year round. In summer their fur is chestnut brown on their backs, with a white throat and tummy. Stoats colour changes in reaction to day length and temperature, so in cold winter weather their fur can become all white – apart from the black tail tip. If you've seen a picture of the Queen in a white fur cloak with black spots – that's her stoat coat – it's made from the fur of winter ermine (ermine is another name for stoat).



Weasels are the littlest. Adult weasels weigh just 60-130 grams. Their fur is the same colour as a stoat, but their tails are brown and don't have a black tip.

Ferrets are the biggest, with adults weighing in at about 600 – 1200g. Their fur is creamy white with black tipped guard hairs and they don't have a distinct white belly. They are the only mustelid with a dark face mask (like Zorro). Their tails are usually all black.

Here's a picture from Greater Regional Council's website so you can see that they are stoatily different and weasily distinguished...

They are from top to bottom a ferret, a stoat and a weasel.



## Leatherwood Study

### A Study of Leatherwood-Tramper Interaction by JR Keys

*(First published in HEELS 1976)*

#### Abstract

The mechanism of mass loss during leatherwood-tramper interaction is dependent on the physical properties of the leatherwood bush. An equation describing the electrostatic charge buildup during the process is derived. Some tramper behaviour is analysed in the light of this phenomenon.

#### Introduction

The problems relating to the restriction of human passage through alpine scrub (Harper, 1896) and leatherwood (e.g. Law, 1975) in particular have been recognised through out the ages. Leatherwood often features in the

Folklore and poems of the hills (e.g. Spearpoint, 1975). Pointedly, leatherwood is not mentioned in a thesis on the salubry by MacPherson (1974).

Little quantitative assessment of Leatherwood-tramper interaction (LTI) has been reported in literature. In view of the large areas of leatherwood in the local ranges a research institute has been established for the investigation of LTI phenomena. This paper describes how static charge is built up on trampers during LTI and derives an equation relating the variables for this. It also discusses some of the consequences of this buildup of charge.

#### Field analysis

The individual leatherwood bush is a highly abrasive, firmly rooted object. Spikey twigs (Gooder,1971) and speartipped branches with high tensile strengths are surrounded by tough resistant leather leaves with sharply serrated edges (see illustration in Sissons, 1971 p.63). These components are several orders of magnitude harder and stronger than the human flesh and its general cloth armour. Upon contact with the flesh and armour any one of these components causes molecular disarray and removes molecules, atoms and electrons from it (see also Radcliffe, 1974). Hence although a collection of leatherwood bushes (the leatherwood field) exhibits variations in surface tension and density, it always produces significant abrasion of a moving tramper. By application of the Schrodinger Equation, McLachlan (1963) showed why tramper velocity through leatherwood is vanishingly small. However even entrained and effectively stationary trampers lose mass from the LTI due to the amplitude of their frenzied struggles. It is this loss of mass which leads to the buildup of static charge on the tramper.

#### Derivation of the Equation

Tramper is assumed to be a symmetrical object of total surface area S, totally immersed in leatherwood.

Area of one side is  $\frac{S}{2}$ .

Total volume of leatherwood displaced (sum of incremental volumes) is  $\frac{Sd}{2}$  where d is distance travelled in leatherwood field.

By Archimedes, apparent loss of mass M of trampler,  $M = \frac{DSd}{2}$  where D is mean field density.

However, because of the extremely abrasive nature of the medium, a proportion L of this M is actually lost.

$L = w \cdot a \cdot M = \frac{w \cdot a \cdot DSd}{2} \dots \dots 1$  where w and a are dependent on the state of the leatherwood and the armour of the trampler respectively.

L can be expressed as a sum,

$L = L^* + nm \dots 2$ . where L\* is mass of neutral particles lost; n is number of excess electrons lost; and m is mass of one electron.

Define a quantity F, the efficiency of excess electron production.

$$F = \frac{nm}{L^*}$$

Substituting and rearranging in 1. and 2.,

$$n = \frac{w \cdot a \cdot F}{2m(1+F)} \cdot DSd$$

Therefore total charge Q on trampler is

$$Q = \frac{c \cdot w \cdot a \cdot F}{2m(1+F)} \cdot DSd$$

where c is charge on one electron.

### Discussion

The quantities L, F, w and a are positive and real. They have been studied to a limited extent. For  $L \leq L_c$  (critical total mass loss) for unarmoured trampers ( $L_c \div 20$  grams), much of this loss is composed of neutral blood and body tissue. To the writer's knowledge, no reports of bone damage have been authenticated. Thus L is approximately equal

to  $L^*$  and  $\frac{F}{1+F}$  is approximately equal to F. However, trampers immersed in leatherwood fields have often been observed to have their hair standing on end. This is attributed to static electricity resulting from the removal of electrons from their bodies. Therefore F does not equal zero during LTI. For  $L > L_c$  hysteria usually occurs within a very few grams and

results become inconclusive at this stage. This hysteria is presumably partly due to high charge density.

For naked trampers "a" is equal to unity. It decreases with increasing armour but reverts to unity when armour failure occurs after prolonged LTI. Both  $L_c$  and F increase with increasing armour.

The quantity w depends on the state of the leatherwood, but is relatively constant over a wide range of conditions. w seems to reach a maximum in old, leafless, thinly ice-glazed leatherwood fields.

L, F, w and a are effectively independent of the actual trampler. However, theoretically at least, F will increase slightly for weatherbeaten, thick-skinned trampers. Thus for different similarly-clad trampers in the same type of leatherwood field;

$$Q = \text{constant} \cdot DSd.$$

### Some Effects

Points of entry onto the tussock-covered ridges of the local ranges are rarely unguarded by leatherwood fields. Inevitably therefore, trampers on these ridges are slightly positively charged. This charge will be greater for larger trampers and for those travelling or attempting to travel long distances through large leatherwood fields. The effect will be most severe in such pedigree fields as on Tawirikohukohu.

Aerial photography has shown that nowhere are these tussock ridges linear in any direction. Thus interaction of the charged trampers with the earth's magnetic field means circular and errant paths are probable. The writer and several of his Vuwtc colleagues have themselves described such circular paths unintentionally on several occasions.

Large collections of trampers are seldom seen in one place on the tops because of the low probability of finding such charged entities in close proximity to each other. Related to this is the obvious danger of a party or pair trying to crowd into a hut, tent or sleeping bag after a long and severe period of Lti. Obviously the effect will be inoperative during low-level river travel. Consequently large gatherings are often seen in valley areas below the scrub line.

## Conclusion

The equation  $Q = \frac{c \cdot w \cdot a \cdot F}{2m(1+F)}$ . DSD describes how charge is developed on a trampler during leatherwood-trampler interaction. It may help trampers avoid some unfortunate side-effects of traversing some hill country.

However, nothing is known of the maximum charges or charge rates or the decay of such charge accumulations. Nevertheless steps are being taken to install charge neutralisers at main road ends, and in strategic locations on the tops, of the Tararuas at least. These will be totally unobtrusive, and obviously more desirable than wholesale destruction of our native and intrinsically beautiful leatherwood areas.

J.R.Keys (Technical Institute of Tramping Sciences).

Acknowledgements are due to members of VUWTC for their sometimes willing, sometimes unwilling cooperation in the field; to Mr B.A.Sissons who refereed this work; and to Whatneys Hyperbolic Association for Research in the Realms of Yokels, for financial support.

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## Book Review

NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAINEERING a history in photographs.

John Wilson, 2015 Bateman Ltd, 160 pages. Reviewed by Terry Crippen

For those of you interested in the history of mountaineering in New Zealand this book is a good photographic record. Naturally it concentrates on the Southern Alps, just a very brief mention of the North Island. It is done in seven chapters, after the Introduction, the first chapter is "The birth of New Zealand mountaineering 1882-1894". And the last chapter being "New Zealand mountaineering today". There is an epilogue: "The sport of mountaineering".

There is an excellent range of photos, opening with Green, Boss and Kaufmann decked out with ropes and very long ice axes, after their 1882 attempt on Mt Cook! The images come from various sources including the Hocken Collections, Alexander Turnbull Library and more recently John Wilson's collection as well as other sources. All of the famous mountaineers are mentioned, including the likes of Ruth Adams, Allan Berry, Lydia Bradey, Don Cowie, Mavis Davidson, Peter Gough; to name just a few.

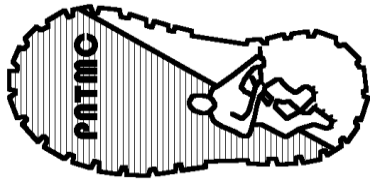
While the text doesn't go into the full details of mountaineering history in NZ, it is an excellent coffee table book. And naturally a good book to buy someone for a Christmas present.

## New on Tongariro Crossing

On a recent trip we discovered a short length of chain and wire rope has been installed on the ridge up to Red Crater. Quite helpful in slippery and windy conditions. Thanks, DOC.



*New climbing chain on Tongariro Crossing [WW]*



Palmerston North  
Tramping and  
Mountaineering  
Club Inc.

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

P.O. Box 1217,  
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## PNTMC Newsletter December 2015

### *What's inside this month?*

- 50th Jubilee - Report and Trips
- Ruahine Trip Reports – Kiritaki, Maharahara, A-Frame/Stanfield
- Egmont Reports – Pouakai Circuit, Lake Dive
- Two Wairarapa Hills (near Tinui)
- How to Spot a Stoat
- Travel Through Leatherwood Study
- Book Review – NZ Mountaineering
- Coming trips and more

### **Articles for the newsletter**

Send by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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!**

**Sender: PNTMC  
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