



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - October 2004

CLUB NIGHTS

Club nights are on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, at 7:45pm **sharp**. All welcome!

At the club night: Please sign the visitor's book. A 50c door fee includes supper.

Sept 30 Noble Climbing (see Sept newsletter)

Oct 14 **City Rock**
Terry Crippen **356 3588**

A chance to learn some new skills on 'inside rock,' or practice old ones, in preparation for outdoor rock climbing activities coming up. Instruction and gear supplied, just bring suitable clothes and footwear (rock shoes can be hired). Enjoyable and worthwhile. Cost \$8. From 7:30 onwards at City Rock, 217 Featherston St, phone 357-4552, behind Phil Turnbull Motors just along from the Rangitiki St intersection.

Oct 21 **Committee Meeting**

Oct 27 **Trekking the Andes**
Tony Gates

Early this year, Tony Gates visited Patagonia, and did several good treks through the "Zona de los Refugios" ie the zone of the mountain huts. There are lovely huts, scenery, alpine lakes, and easy peaks.

For lots more photos & trips, check out www.pntmc.org.nz

E-mail articles to kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz or post to Tony at horizons.mw, 11-15 Victoria Ave, P.N. (by 20th of month)

TRIPS

Please contact the leader at least three days in advance. Trips leave from Countdown carpark. A reasonably proficient trumper can be expected to do the trips in the following times:

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs Technical skills reqd (T)

Medium (M): 5-6 hrs Instructional (I)

Fit (F): about 8 hrs

Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

Sept 26 Mangahou (see Sept newsletter)

Oct 2-3 **Tapuaeunaku** **F/T**
Alasdair Noble **356 1094**

This will be a three and a half day trip leaving Friday pm for an evening ferry. Saturday morning walk in to Hodder hut. Sunday climb Tapuaeunuku and return to the hut. Monday walk out and return to Palmy. Hopefully there will still be snow so ice axes and crampons will be needed. There is a chance of some staying on for some other South Island experiences. We have had to cancel this trip for the last three years due to weather and/or snow conditions so don't hold your breath. Transport will be arranged nearer the time.

Oct 3 **Kapakapanui** **M**
Doug Strachan **353 6526**

Meet at Countdown at 8am. There will be a compulsory Mehnut stop at Oz's bakery in Otaki on the way to Waikanai, where we turn inland. It takes about 3hrs tramping to get to the top of Kapakapanui (1102m), just in time for lunch. In good weather, there are excellent views of the main range to the east, and Kapiti to the west. The loop track back involves about 2 and a half hours actual tramping, with the hut providing a rest station after the first hour. We're doing the loop anti-clockwise, going up the steep end, which should spare a few knees on the way out.

trips continue overleaf

TRIPS contd...

Oct 9-10 Nichols Hut F
Nigel Gregory 354 8124

This is definitely a long, fit trip. We're going in from Otaki Forks, via Waitewaewae Hut and Mt Crawford, to Nichols Hut. We'll probably return the same way. 6:30am start.

Oct 10 Mangaweka Tunnel Ramble E
Edith Leary 06 322 8533

An easy day walk along an old railway line. A torch is needed for the 3 tunnels. Also, be prepared for the possibility of mud. This trip is subject to landowner approval. 8am start.

Oct 14 Clubnight - City Rock (see page 1)

Oct 16 Titahi Bay Rock I
(Sat) Terry Crippen 356 3588

Now that you have had an intro at City Rock, here is your chance to develop your skills on some proper rock (greywacke - what the southern alps are made of) at the coast behind Porirua. The climbing ranges from very easy to as-hard-as-you-like. Equipment will be supplied if you don't have it. Should be an enjoyable day. Depart 8am to the Titahi Bay coastal crags.

Oct 17 Iron Peg M/F
Dave Grant 357 8269

Leave Countdown carpark at 7am for the drive to the Upper Kawhatau valley in the western Ruahines. The tramp to Iron Peg takes us across a short section of farmland then we climb up through the bush-clad flanks of the Hikurangi range to the tussock tops, passing Purity hut on the way. Lunch at Iron Peg will provide fabulous views on a clear day across the Kawhatau headwaters to the Waipawa saddle and Te Atua o Parapara, and southwards to Sawtooth Ridge. Then its all downhill back the same way we came.

Oct 23-25 Kaweka Ranges M
(Labour W/E) Tony Gates 357 7439
 (replaces Arthur Range Kahurangi NP trip)

Due to lack of early interest, the South Island trip has shifted north. You have to confirm interest and purchase airline seats several months prior to the trip. So to make transport easier and cheaper, I would like to head off into the Kaweka Ranges for a couple of nights. Camping on the tops may be required, and a good look along the high Kaweka Range.

Oct 25 Stanfield E
(Mon) Duncan Hedderley 355 1820

An 8am start for a visit to a nice little hut in the eastern Ruahines. Given decent weather we'll go

in along the ridgeline and come out down the Tamaki stream.

Oct 27 Clubnight – Trekking the Andes (see page 1)

Oct 30-31 Kelly Knight Hut E
Llew Prichard 358 2217

A cruisy trip in the western Ruahines, leaving 9am. Options include going on to Wooden Peg and Iron Peg, or heading up the ridge behind the hut.

Oct 31 Tunupo M
Anja Scholz 356 6454

Starting from Table Flat Road, Apiti, a well-graded track leads up through the bush to open tussock and on to prominent Tunupo Peak (1568 m) in the Ngamoko Range. Good views in fine weather, and maybe some snow left on the tops. 7:30am start from the Countdown carpark.

Oct 30-31 Outdoor 1st Aid I
Tom Siegenthaler 357 7237

If you are not a current outdoor first aid certificate holder, but want to be, there will be a full weekend course, held at Foxton Beach, on Oct 30-31. It runs from Fri 7:30pm till 3 or 4pm Sunday afternoon. It costs \$100. Tom needs to know the final number of participants a week beforehand so he can organise catering etc... Call Tom Siegenthaler on 357 7237 if you want to sign up for the course.

Nov 6-7 Kawekas M/F
Janet Wilson 239 4722

Nov 6 Navigation 1 E,I
Terry Crippen 356 3588

Nov 7 Navigation 2 E,I
Terry Crippen 356 3588

Trip participants:

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Countdown carpark. A charge for transport will be collected on the day. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance. For general info, or any suggestions for future tramps, please contact Terry Crippen (356-3588), Janet Wilson (329-4722) or Tony Gates (357-7439).

Trip leaders:

Please advise a trip coordinator, as soon as possible, if you will be unable to run your trip as scheduled. This is so that alternatives can be arranged, put in the newsletter, or passed on at club night.

*** OVERDUE TRIPS ***

Enquiries to: Mick Leyland (358 3183), Terry Crippen (356 3588), or Janet Wilson (329 4722)

NOTICES

Change of Editor, Christine's New Role, Outdoor 1st Aid, Photo Comp. Results

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES can be e-mailed to doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz or delivered to 1 Worsfold Lane, PN

CHANGE OF EDITORSHIP **By Doug**

18mths ago, I took over from Tony Gates as newsletter editor. As I will be spending all of November and April in Japan, and getting married in January, it is no longer practicable for me to compile the newsletter. Tony, despite having become very busy with other activities, has kindly agreed to resume his former role of editor. See you all in church (the hills) on Sundays.

TARANAKI-WHANGANUI CONSERVATION BOARD APPOINTMENT

Fellow trumper and club member Christine Cheyne has been appointed to the Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board. (Mt Taranaki/Egmont being her favourite mountain).

OUTDOOR 1ST AID COURSE

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INTERCLUB PHOTO COMPETITION RESULTS

This year MTSC hosted the inter-club photo-competition on Tues, Sept 21 at the Manawatu Aero Clubs rooms, Airport Drive. The impartial, but open to bribes (!) judge was Fraser Kitt from Bruce Watt Photography. Some place-getters may have raised eyebrows but the Supreme Award "Nine Years in the Making" of starlight swirling over the summit of Ruapehu was in no doubt, thanks Fraser.

MTSC used their new data projector system to show the scanned slides and some of the scanned prints, and after initial teething problems worked well. Thanks to Howard Nicholson for

running this event and to the prize sponsors - Bells Photography, Foto First, and Fraser Kitt for copies of his new photography magazine.

1. Alpine (NZ)

Projected

1. Nine Years in the Making, Lee Davies (MUAC)
2. Alpine escapade, ??? (MUAC)
3. Wish you were here, Lee Davies (MUAC)

Prints

1. Three Climbers, Annabel Smith (MUAC)
2. Mt Aylmer, Daniel Clearwater (MUAC)
3. Temple Col, Warren Wheeler (PNTMC)

2. Scenic (NZ)

Projected

1. Wanganui Valley, Westland, H. Nicholson (MTSC)
2. Morning mist, Andy Huine (MUAC)
3. Homeward bound, Lee Davies (MUAC)

Prints

1. Tennyson Inlet, Warren Wheeler (PNTMC)
2. Sunset, Geoff Walker (MUAC)
3. Paddock, Annabel Smith (MUAC)

3. Natural History (NZ)

Projected

1. Tui in Kowhai, Jean Garman (MTSC)
2. Fern, Tony Gates (PNTMC)
3. Good enough to drink, Lee Davies (MUAC)

Prints

1. Landing Gear (Kea), Heather Purdie (PNTMC)
2. Rata flower, Elaine Hervé (PNTMC)
3. Frozen Lily, Aidan Haig (MUAC)

4. Topical (NZ)

Projected

1. Burn, Jean Garman (MTSC)
2. Stan Evans Memorial, Jean Garman (MTSC)
3. Captain's Call, Lee Davies (MUAC)

Prints

1. Sitting on ice, Elaine Hervé (PNTMC)
2. High tea, Warren Wheeler (PNTMC)
3. Good end to a great day, Jackie White (MUAC)

5. Overseas: Open

Projected

1. Snow covered penguins, Wei-Hang Chua (MTSC)
2. Patagonia Granite, Tony Gates (PNTMC)
3. Dents de Lanfon, Terry Crippen (PNTMC)

Prints

1. Alpine fence, Terry Crippen (PNTMC)
2. Six against one, Terry Crippen (PNTMC)
3. Valley of the 10 peaks, Malcolm Leary (PNTMC)

TRIP REPORTS

Kawekas, Snowcraft 1, Herepai, Waitarere, Totara Flats, Athene Skyline Walkway

Kaweka's: Nordic Style 20-21 Aug By Lance Scholz

The Winter Olympics, Turin Italy 2006, are calling Craig Allerby such was his style on the Kaweka Peak of Kaiarahi (1507m) at the weekend.

Tony and I were astonished at Craig's ability given the fact he said he skied only once in the past. Now we couldn't get him to stop! What a skifield, all 200 metres of it! A weekend tramping with Tony is always going to be interesting but here we were Nordic skiing in the Kaweka's and making our own videos to boot!

Tony had originally intended Sawtooth for the following weekend but events transpired to bring the trip forward. What a week to wait to go tramping. Flooding everywhere but our prayers were answered when Friday proffered remotely good weather and away we went: to the Kaweka's. Sawtooth was put on the backburner given the amount of water still flowing off the slopes, so Craig and I had the treat of going to the Kaweka's for the first time. Travelling time was around 3½ hours to the Lakes Carpark with us shouldering packs to Kiwi Saddle Hut at 4.45pm. Once again we ended up navigating by torchlight but Tony had his ferrous detector on because he found every waratah out there plus he had completed the "Kaweka Challenge" in far worse weather back in February so he knew the way. Kiwi Saddle Hut arrived at 7.45pm in time for Tony to do a few laps before dinner and the pit.

Saturday was a beauty with no wind making the whistles of the Sika deer very clear. We snow-plugged and slipped our way to Castle Camp for an early lunch before the grind up to Kaiarahi where we flagged going to Kaweka J for a brew and some Nordic Ski practice. I go well uphill is all I can say about my efforts though I did get some good video shots of the others using Tony's camera. After wrestling the skis off Craig's feet and much adolescent humour we passed the Tits and arrived at the "gendarme" of the Cooks Horn which immediately silenced our good spirits. We proceeded to scare ourselves as we clambered around the rotten rock to get past. Even Tony the bull Thar, complete with skis in his right hand, found the experience underpants packing. Our suggestion for anyone looking at this route is to

have a look at this "gendarme" but to consider The Rogue ridge for less stressful travel. After raising our blood pressure we nosed our way down the obvious spur with Tony bringing us out onto the track less than two minutes from the deceased Kaweka Hut. From here it was only an hour back to the car. The trip home was spent perusing Tony's digital photos and video before checking into Dannevirke's health food centre (KFC), and finally home around 9.30pm. A superb weekend of Nordic Skiing and Kaweka tramping. We were Tony Gates, Craig Allerby and Lance Scholz.

Snowcraft 1, 21-22 Aug By Alasdair Noble



Shadowy People



Crafty People



Dug-Themselves-into-a-Hole People

Herepai Hut, 22 Aug By Neil Campbell.

The party consisted of: Neil Campbell (leader), Elaine Hervé, Richard Lockett, Duncan Hedderley, Barbara Mare, Peter and Cathy Dyer.

We left Palmerston North at 8am. The drive to the start of this walk in the Tararuas involves leaving State Highway 2 at Eketahuna and then proceeding to the end of Putara Road. This road is unsealed but in good condition.

We left the cars at about 9.30am. The day was not particularly cold but there were light showers and occasional hail with strong gusts in exposed places.

The track to Herepai Hut is clearly well looked after although it is little muddy in places. The track crosses two swing bridges before a steep climb up to a ridge. The walk along the ridge to the hut is very pleasant. The trees left us well protected against the strong gusts of wind.

We reached the hut a bit before midday and had lunch. Because of the conditions we did not go any further than the hut. On fine days it is certainly worth going a bit further because the views can be excellent.

After lunch we returned to the cars, changed into some clean dry clothing, and drove home. On the drive back to Palmerston North we stopped at Eketahuna. There were no coffee shops open so we made do with refreshments from the mini super market. We arrived back in Palmerston North at about 4.30pm.



Here-a-Pie for Lunch

Waitarere Beach, 29 Aug By Duncan Hedderley

"It could be quite exposed" I said. And it was, but it was also sunny. There is a lot of debris on the beach, presumably washed down in this year's floods. Heading south from Waitarere, we passed the wreck of the Hydrabad, a rusting half-hull almost swallowed by the dunes now (Monica remembered it being further out on the beach, a testimony to how the coast changes) A couple of kilometres further on we encountered a river, and just behind the dunes, Hokio village. There we debated whether to try to find a track through the pine plantation inland, or walk back along the beach. The beach (and the sun) won. It was a bit busier as we walked back - people walking dogs, exercising horses, one car pulling donuts. We got back to the carpark about lunchtime, and found somewhere out of the wind to eat and talk about gardens and birds and Monica's walking holiday in Britain. Around about 2pm it felt like ice-cream time, so we headed to the Waitarere Four Square and marvelled at the prices being asked for even the most rudimentary bach at the beach. Thanks to Monica, Fiona, Yuko and Neil, for a grand day out.

Totara Flats, 11-12 Sept By Elaine Hervé

Led by Elaine Hervé with Warren Wheeler, Richard Locket, Ian thepackhorse Harding and Wara Teeranitamkul

An easy start for me as everyone met at my house - convenient parking for the two out of towners. The five of us squeezed into my car and

headed for Mount Holdsworth car park. En route the usual wide range of discussions took place.

Warren mentioned his recent dream of someone receiving a head injury when out in the bush, and how to treat. Comments were made about premonitions.

We left the car park at 11:00 and made our way into the bush. Within fifteen minutes I had tripped myself up by hooking a lace up on the other boot and falling full length, grazing my head and cutting my lip. After a quick wash in a nearby stream and check over by Warren, we proceeded on.

The track up to the turn off is well graded and used. We took time to stop and enjoy the views of the snow, but not disappointed to be staying in the bushline as it looked windy higher up.

Soon after the turn off for the Totara Valley we stopped for lunch. The steep root and rock track down to the valley was negotiated with care. We arrived at the stream and had another quick break before taking the approximately 1 hour 20mins to the swing bridge. The track along the valley floor offers a variety of good track, stream crossings and climbing around trees. The swing bridge was negotiated without difficulty and then we settled ourselves into the new Totara Flats hut.

There were already 6 people from MUAC present. 5 hunters popped their heads in, and muttered about over-the-top huts and no deer. Later we were joined by a man and his two young sons, who had just seen three deer.

After entrees of overseas seafood delicacies provided by Warren and Wara we went for a wander down to the flats area to view the campsite areas. Mains was provided by Richard and Ian who both specialised in fresh veges with bacon, washed down with wine kindly provided and carried in by Ian. Dessert was pikelets, jam and cream with additional treats also provided by Ian.

We retired to bed earlyish and none of us slept particularly well, but when we did get up the weather had turned a little unpleasant with strong wind gusts and showers. After tidying up, we were the first to head away and face the swing bridge which was a different situation altogether in the strong side wind and side guy ropes not attached! The sign says to take extreme caution in strong wind. We decided this meant stopping

and crouching as necessary, which we all duly practised in turn.

The return journey was uneventful, after the trials of the bridge, with people making their own time back up the hill. Once back on the main Holdsworth track we met several groups of people weighed down by crampons, ice axes and ropes. Although they would come across snow we suspected it would be warm, windy and wet once near the tops.

We arrived at the car park about midday. Warren headed off to inform the DoC rangers the problems of the bridge and dysfunctional broom in the hut.

After changing, we had lunch at the car park with yet more food provided by Ian. With his pack now down to about 15kg's we all piled into the car and headed back to Palmy.

Although there was about 4 hours walking each way this was not considered an easy, easy tramp. Reassuringly, a comment was noticed in the hut book by the Manawatu club of their recent 'easy' trip in from Holdsworth



Bowed by the Wind



Wara having a Swing

Atene Skyline Walkway, 12 Sept By Anja Scholz

We were: Lawrence O'Halloran, Yuko Watanabe, Duncan Hedderley, Craig Allerby, Lance Gray and Anja Scholz (Trip Leader)

After I had put all my change in the sun meter during the week, the forecasted shower clouds did actually not make it to Whanganui National Park, but dumped 200mm of rain on Taranaki instead. Thus we had one of those medium rare trips where heads and feet stayed dry.

A good hour and a half's driving took us to the southern end of the walkway, and it was a bit frightening to see how many slips had come down onto the river road after this year's rainfalls (all cleared).

Assistant trip leader Lance's description *"we start with a steep 2-300m climb, and then it's flat on top of the ridge"* was a typical example of *Kiwispeak*, which translates into "we start with a steep 520m climb, and then it's all undulating on the top". Well, as the track was well marked, graded, easy to walk on etc., we did earn our cake and ice cream only thanks to those undulations. Better undulates than unguulates I say! Although, the wildlife file for the day included a baby goat – okay they're a pest but it was tiny and cute nonetheless. ! Other wildlife was restricted to a tomtit and three wood pigeons. Thanks to the goats, I guess.

We walked rather uneventfully for two and a half hours to the shelter which marks about the halfway spot, and decided to have an early but lengthy lunch. As from there on the track would slowly descend to a slip, which DOC had

recommended to "not even look at", we headed back to the cars the same way, managing the 500 m descent fairly quickly. At several spots the track opened for some good views towards the Wanganui River and across the neighbouring ranges. Looking forward to replenishing the lost calories on the way back, we disappointingly met with two closed cafes before finally catching an open one in Bulls as the last stop for the day.

Portal to the Past

Nov. 1969 newsletter:
Extract of trip report for 12-14Sept., Tongariro Nat. Pk:
"An orange tent pitched on the back of Tony's truck was seen to proceed up Rangitikei street towards Ohakune on Friday night. Gale force winds at the top of the Mountain Road made short work of the structure and the idea of a 3-peak trip was abandoned."

Worth a Look

<http://www.bikechina.com/heinzstucke1z.html>

Heinz Stucke
Facts & figures: 1999
59 years old
415,000 km cycled
192 countries seen
37 years on the road
80 to 120km/day
Same 25 kg 3-speed bike
40 to 50 kg luggage
15 passports filled
Never returned to Germany
1995 to 99 Guinness Book of Records:
"Most Travelled Man in History"

Ask Charles Montgomery

Q. Dear Charles, why aren't you standing for Mayor? Undecided voter.

A. I like my anonymity. I've voted for Heather.
Regards, Charles.

Note: Send any questions you have to the Editor, who will forward them to Charles.

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