

# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

**Newsletter - November 2004**

## CLUB NIGHTS

*Club nights are on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friend's 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.*

### **Nov 11 Richard Haverkamp**

Fiordland - a slide presentation on some of the more difficult and seldom visited areas in the spectacular Fiordland National Park. Our guest presenter is Richard Haverkamp, currently an academic at Massey but who in a past life (!) had many extraordinary tramping trips both in New Zealand and overseas

### **Nov 18 Committee Meeting**

### **Nov 25 BYO slides etc.**

What have you been up to over the past year? This is your chance to show others a selection of you slides and prints, (and/or perhaps digital images), of your recent exploits - tramping, climbing or related outdoor activities. Or to enthuse others (and yourself!) for the coming summer. Hopefully a number of short presentations from a number of you. Terry will coordinate things. Come along even if you're not going to present anything.

### **Dec 9 End of year BBQ.**

## TRIPS

**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 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 if you want to sign up for the course.

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

Ever feel like you'd like to do the Kaweka Challenge mountain race or just like to see where the slightly crazy racers go. We will follow the route of the race over Kaweka J, but NOT at race pace. Departing Friday afternoon, camping at the road end and at Makahu Base on Saturday night.

**Nov 6                    Navigation 1                    E,I**  
**Terry Crippen                    356 3588**

A couple of hours of basic instruction on how to use a compass and estimating distances and times; basic components of navigation. Compasses supplied. Bring a pencil and suitable footwear. Meet at the public shelter Ashhurst Domain at 9am

**Nov 7                    Navigation 2                    E,I**  
**Terry Crippen                    356 3588**

Depart 8am. A full day of instruction and practice in bush travel in the north-eastern Tararuas. Follows on from Navigation 1. Everyone can benefit from this days activity, getting to grips with bearings, time, distance, contours, landform and route planning. (NOTE: grade is Medium, not Easy as in previous newsletter, since it can be a longish day off-track in bush)

**Nov 11. Club night, Fiordland, by Richard Havercamp. (nb, this replaces Eric Duggan's much anticipated talk, which will be re scheduled for next year).**

**Nov 14                    Mania Track                    E/ M**  
**Fiona Donald                    356 1095**

A pleasant spot in from Mangaweka and just north of Rangī.

NB, Wara's scheduled Pouakai trip for November 13 14 has been cancelled.

**Nov 18 Committee Meeting.**

**Nov 20 or 21. Longview Hut                    E**  
**Jo OHalloran                    353 0300**

Jo plans this as a day trip, for either Saturday or Sunday, depending on what trampers want. Good views of Southern Hawkes Bay.

**Nov 21                    Field Hut                    E/M**  
**Chris Saunders                    358 4899**

Another regular spot for PNTMC day trippers, with, like the above, good views of the plains. Nice hot bread shop in Otaki.

**Nov 25 Club night, BYO slides.**

**Nov 27- 28                    Cattle Ridge Hut                    M**  
**Martin Lawrence                    357 1695**

A good overnight Tararua tramp, with the full moon allowing for some evening tramping without torches.

**Nov 28                    Manawatu Gorge Track                    E**  
**Leader required.**

Close to home, this trail should be much improved, now it has had time to dry out after winter. A classic training run or bush stroll, with a quality café at the Balance end.

**Nov 28 (pm)                    River Safety (MSC)                    I**  
**Tom Siegenthaler                    357 7237**

**Dec 4- 5                    Full length Waingawa River                    F**  
**Jean Garman                    354 3536**

Now this might be the stuff of fantasies for some people, you know, endless leatherwood and Spaniard, waterfalls in the river, slippery rocks, and long, hard days. But on a trip like this, it's not all difficult, and you get to see some long forgotten corners and very beautiful parts of the Tararuas. Alpine flowers will be seen.

**Nov 5                    Pinnacle Ridge                    M/ F**  
**Jenny McCarthy 06 376 8838**

This tramp is a good bush navigation trip near Holdsworth Lodge, and traveling close (maybe meeting) the above group.

**Nov 9. Club night, End of year BBQ.**

**Dec 18- 19                    Contorta pulling.**  
**Janet Wilson (co ordinator) 329 4722.**

A good chance to get away from the pre xmas rush, and do your bit for conservation. There is an obvious xmas theme to the trip, and to the Sat night dinner.

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).

Trips

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs

Medium (M): 5-6 hrs

Fit (F): about 8 hrs

Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

Technical skills reqd (T)

Instructional (I)

**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)

For lots more photos & trips, check out [www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

## NOTICES

**Change of Editor (and new Editor required). Trip Card Survey reminder. New bridge, Mitre Flats. Wellington Conservancy facilities review (Tararuas). Blue Duck Survey (Turangi). SAR training.**

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

*can be e-mailed to the temporary editor, who is Tony Gates, at [kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz](mailto:kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz),*

*or dropped in in paper format (if you insist), to 24 Springdale Grove, Palmerston North.*

Digital photographers- please limit selection, and shrink images before Emailing them.

#### **New Editor required.**

As I am currently filling in for Doug as Newsletter, the Committee will be looking early 2005 for a new Editor for the Newsletter. This challenging and rewarding role would suit someone with a few skills with the computer, and a little spare time. The contributors do a great deal of the work, the Editor does a more planning and shuffling around of information. If you are interested in assisting PNTMC, then please contact the committee.

#### **New bridge at Mitre Flats.**

Please note that the new Mitre Flats Bridge, in the Tararua Forest Park, is complete and open to the public. Please remove INV notices relating to the closure and construction of the bridge. This includes INV notices (19/04W and 27/04W). Please also

note that logging at Waiohine Road end is finished.

Liz Paton (Masterton Doc).

#### **Wellington Conservancy- Recreational Facilities Review (October 2004).**

The Submission an analysis booklet for the Tararua, Rimutaka, and Haurangi Forest Parks' recreational facilities is now available. There are some good comments about huts, and why users wanted to keep them. DOC has tried to rationalise their recreational facilities, and have certainly listened to the submitters. There is plenty of room for users to provide hut and track maintenance here.

#### **Trip Card Survey**

You are reminded to please complete the Trip Card Survey, posted out with the last Newsletter, and return it to Janet when you can. Thank you.

#### **Blue Duck Survey**

Sarah Gibb, and the Tongariro Natural History Society (with DOC), are conducting Blue Duck Surveys throughout the Kaimanawa Forest Part and Tongariro National Park (and environs) during December 2004 and January and March 2005. Although they require expressions of interest by 30 October 2004 for volunteers to join them, either as participants or as

leaders, I think that you could call a little later than that date- particularly if you are interested in one of the March 2005 trips.

There are several day trips listed, close to main roads, and poking into some forgotten corners where the beautiful Blue Duck, or Whio, may be found. There are a few 4 day trips, some with helicopter and raft assistance.

If you are interested, Tony has some details. Check [www.tongariro.org.nz](http://www.tongariro.org.nz), email to Sarah at [info@tongariro.org.nz](mailto:info@tongariro.org.nz), or PO Box 238, Turangi.

### **Search and Rescue training.**

Hi Peoples,

The SAR training for November is a Round Robin Day, ie a number of various activities: Helicopter briefing and hover loading Map and compass GPS Comms (VHF and HF operation) Basic rope set up. Saturday 20th Nov at Manfield Park at Feilding, start 0900hours. Mainly for newcomers or those wanting to brush up. There is no limit to the no.s wishing to attend but can you let me know who will be coming so we can coordinate getting there and so I can let Bill know. Let me know by early November. Bring your own lunch, tea and coffee supplied.

Regards, Terry

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **Snowcraft 3 and 4. Mangahao Manouveres. Above the Bushline instructors course. Mangaweka Tunnells. Kapakapanui. Titahi Bay rock climb.**

#### **Snowcraft Three, 17-19 September 2004. By Lance Gray.**

I was at the TAB the other day looking at the odds on a grey stallion "The Captain Crippen" doing a "no-show" for Snowcraft Three. I was quoted 500-1 and thought better about spending my \$5. Instead I went for the quinella of crap weather and fish 'n' chips at the St Johns Hill greasemonger. Terry's story of kicking some door in the kitchen, in bare feet, resulting in a haemotoma is right up there with some of the best stories I heard from my days as a university lecturer. I often had to listen to incredible tales of woe that beset my students in and around assignment due dates. My favourite story, and it was genuine, was the young woman who lost her boyfriend's brand new Nissan Primera in a carpark and reported it stolen only to discover, two days later, that she had returned to the wrong carpark! She was severely traumatised and needed a couple of extra days which I granted once I had picked myself off the floor. Terry's was pretty good

but we are still waiting for the digital image and the doctor's certificate to confirm it.

Amazing as it may seem Snowcraft Three happened without our indomitable leader though we do thank him for the incredible efforts with SC 1&2 and the logistics involved in setting up SC3. Snowcraft Three was dominated by the personalities of the three instructors and all would be a shoo in for the mayoralty after this weekends performance. Just to give you a taste of the entertainment on offer we had "Mr Structural Integrity" (Peter Darragh) who was chivalry personified when escorting the lovely Janet back down the mountain in snotty conditions. Peter also turned every comment into song which is explained by his association with Mitre 10 "You'll be better off with Mitre 10..." as well as providing pithy interpretations of the weather. Such as "...it only seems worse when you can hear it raining on the roof." This was code for, it is time to stop looking at the rain and get moving.

Next on the card was Alastair Noble who had us all enthralled at "Show and Tell" with his

ice climbing tools which we are told were designed for Scottish conditions: this would explain their “economy” of size but intimidating presence. Alastair’s climbing experience and manner with newbie climbers made him a real favourite. The shining star of the threesome though was Lord Admiral van Brunt who regaled us with life on the range in Washington State. Our favourite story was the use of Ammonium Nitrate (fertiliser), diesel, and ignition caps to despatch a pesky ground squirrel as well as a water trough that became part of the collateral damage.

If you are not familiar with the impact of such chemistry reacquaint yourself with Timothy McVeigh’s attack “The Oklahoma City Bombing.” Bruce lamented that an M16 was a hopeless design but took great pride in shooting deer with a sniper rifle. We were also witness, not to the von Trapps’ singing, but even better, the van Brunt’s poetry readings with Anastasia and Bruce rattling off poem after poem off by heart. Peter chimed in with some hearty Tararua getting lost rhymes, but they were not as classy as the van Brunts offerings.

Other distractions to the weather included fascinating knots and tricky things like tidying up slings and prussiks. My favourite was the double fishermans for connecting two ropes. Others however would cast their vote for Peters one-arm bowline which was ballet in motion except that its use was confined to one application in 25 years of climbing! In the brief time we were on the mountain I have no idea what the others were doing but Malcolm and I went for a long walk in a white-out as well as making a snow-cave. Malcolm is still put out that just as he was making the finishing touches for habitation the others headed off for lunch and there was no audience for our magnificent creation. It is a great way to tire people out and get them wet in the process. Run out of ideas? Get ’em to dig a snow-cave! A special mention to Edith who gave Kapuni Hut a spring clean as well feeding everyone and making us all seem rather superfluous in the kitchen. As a consequence of the weekend we all put on weight and learned a great deal about our instructors. In any other circumstance this would be described as an

“encounter” session but for PNTMC it was another weekend of predictably crappy Taranaki weather. Welcome to climbing.

We were: Bruce & Anastasia van Brunt, Alastair Noble, Peter Darragh, Malcolm & Edith Leary, Heather Purdie, Craig Allerby, Kirsten, & Lance Gray.

### **“Snowcraft 4 – Terry’s Revenge” 2-3 October 2004. By Lance Gray.**

Terry may have been absent from Snowcraft 3, and we are still waiting for the doctor’s certificate, but he loomed large over this non-club trip which was really snowcraft four in drag. Once again Malcolm and I were under the tutelage of Terry, and that notebook, along with Heather who had powered through the other snowcrafts and was keen for “extension”. Well she certainly got it. The weather on Snowcraft 3 had cast a pall so we informally decided on a trip to Ruapehu only if the weather was nothing short of fantastic. Well that day came and away we went at 3pm on the Saturday.

At Ohakune we celebrated early with two super-size pizzas, chips, and four beers each, before our luxurious accommodation at the Doc camping ground. Heather came off worst next morning at 4.30am daylight saving time (3.30am really) but gradually came right as the day progressed. We were on the Turoa Ski-field by 6am (5am really) and had our crampons on for the next 13 hours as we made our way over to the Mangaehuehu Glacier before roping up and pitching to the ridge toward Taurangi, the highest point on Mt Ruapehu at 2797 metres.



Terry and Malcolm took a more adventurous line than Heather and I. Heather was

thinking I may have got the short end of the rope but I had avoided Terry so I was quietly celebrating. Terry had made his selection of partner immediately after I had shown off my new rope which I proceeded to tangle. After what seemed like a million pitches we made the ridge before heading to the summit of Tahurangi. After a brew and a round of photos on the windless summit we dropped off down this incredibly long face which you look at from ski-field. Using Heather as a "lab-rat" we practiced a couple of belaying variations before eventually finding gentler slopes, and Malcolm, who had failed to find an inner-glove that made a dash for freedom earlier.

During the day we had watched the skiers arrive and then depart. We had arrived at the car-park first and now were the last to leave. It was one of those days where you don't want to go home but hunger, thirst, and fading daylight finally give you the nudge. Very special thanks to Terry for organizing the weekend and politeness at some of our errors. We were Terry Crippen, Heather Purdie, Malcolm Leary and Lance Gray (scribbler).

### **Mangahao Manoeuvres Sept 26. By Richard Lockett.**

Good conversation makes time fly, the trip up to the Mangahao No 1 dam in Warren's trusty Renault didn't seem to take long at all with a good load on board consisting of Nigel Gregory ,Heather Purdie, Warren Wheeler and scribe Richard Lockett, it ground its way into the Tararua's no problem.

I've never seen the top dam full of water before, it has been a tad wet this past week month year, looks a lot better with the bush down to the waters edge than with dead trees sticking out of the gravel when its empty. The forecast was for a good clear blue sky day and it was, our mission to get up onto the tops, Ngapuketuruua 1094 metres to be precise and because its such a nice day return via the Baber Stream. So we head off across the dam and onto the Puketuruua track following the lake edge before dropping into the Baber stream 10 mins down stream of the Baber forks, track well littered with orange triangles nailed to trees. At the forks we head up the ridge

which splits the forks, found start of track easy enough but from here its not marked at all, but no problem to follow though. Good conversation makes time fly the good oil on politics, the politics of the good oil. I must be old school, for news I read a newspaper young Nigel surfs the net. We were soon out of the bush and the going slowed up as pushing through tussock and flax not easy but we hit the top in high spirits. Lunch on Ngapuketuruua 2 kms away sweet as.

There's one thing shore to kill any conversation; leatherwood lots of it, time for Warren to lead his extra height used to plot the coarse, it seemed to take forever for lunch to arrive and nowhere to sit. Good views of east and west peaks, Ruapae, the Camelbacks out to the west, the muddy old Manawatu river winding its way out to Foxton, it was brown right out into the sea. Now how to get into the Baber, straight over there, lots of leather wood down there, into it with Warren leading . A great relief to come upon a slip face heading in our direction of travel, usually to be avoided but for us a motorway and at its end a trickle of water-the Baber stream. The next few hours were spent climbing down the rock strewn stream around waterfalls down waterfalls over and under fallen trees getting wet and muddy. Came across a couple of small waterfalls over rock faces where the rock was covered in lichen and surrounded by ferns, very pleasing to the eye reminding me of visits to the winter gardens in Wanganui. Its amazing how much a boot can dam a small stream and when you lift that leg a cascade of water rushes down and refills your other boot. Although it was still light upon reaching the baber forks, on entering the bush 10 mins down stream it was quite dark. Not to far to go now didn't dig the torches out, yes we did have one with us and should have got in out as it would have spoilt a excellent day if someone had tripped over and hurt themselves 5 mins from the car. The lake looked a picture dead calm with the moonlight shining upon it- Beautiful.

A long day 9 + hours but we came away with that good feeling satisfaction although Nigel did miss out on his Sunday evening roast.

### **Above the Bushline Instructors Course 2/3 October by Janet Wilson**

Warren Wheeler, Craig Allerby and myself attended this FMC organised course, aimed at club trip leaders and instructors. Ray Goldring from the Mountain Safety Council was the instructor, assisted by Laurie Gallagher from FMC.

We travelled up on the Friday evening and stayed at Whakapapa at the Waikato Tramping Club's lodge. There were 21 participants on the course from all over the North Island. There was no Friday evening session due to some participants arriving late in the evening. Late in the evening it was decided that we would do our daylight saving change over that night, rather than on the Sat night, to give us the extra daylight hours. So, we were up very early the next morning, and not exactly popular with other people sharing the lodge.

After a meeting and greeting session, we split up into teams of mixed ability. Warren and I found ourselves amongst the more experienced people there and became team instructors. We then had a session on navigation and then headed out to test these skills. On the way we brushed up on self arresting and step cutting. Some people had had very little experience on snow, which I found a little surprising. After lunch we carried on with the navigation and after arriving at our destination (no GPS allowed) we did a short rock climbing session followed by basic rope skills. Some interesting techniques used here and it was good to get back to basics.

After some discussion and a vote, we opted for setting up camp on a spur overlooking the Top of the Bruce area, rather than in a more shelter gully - the weather certainly looked settled and we were looking forward to a grandstand view of the firework display to be held that night. It was the first time a lot of people had put up tents on snow. It was a perfect evening, with no wind and great views. The fireworks turned out to be spectacular but very brief. Everyone retired early, and some lessons were learnt that night on just how cold it can be camping on snow.

Next morning the weather was still settled. We went into a gully for more step cutting, self arresting etc plus a session on shelters. We worked in our teams and got valuable experience both as team leaders and instructors. Team leadership was swapped around regularly to give everyone a turn. After lunch we were set a task to navigate back to the hut on a direct bearing which put steep snow slopes and some bluffs on the route. At the bluffs we belayed team members up the climb. After this we did some more practise with the ropes including a simple abseiling technique and putting in a traverse line.

We had the debrief sitting on the rocks in the sun - perfect. Everyone seemed very happy with the course and got plenty out of it. The instructors were excellent and I'd certainly recommend this course to others in the future. Thanks to PNTMC for paying the course fees.

### **Kapakapanui, October 2004.**

Neil Campbell, Anja Scholz, Sam Harrild, Duncan Hedderley, Barbara Mare, Ian Harding, Tony Gates, Adrienne Cavanagh and Doug Strachan (leader, who had to wake up his flatmate Adrienne who was having trouble adjusting to Daylight Savings).

We hadn't even left PN and I'd managed to twice put myself in front of a firing squad. At Countdown, I pointed to Neil's and Ian's cars and said, "Shall we take these 2 cars?" Sam and Anja immediately wanted to know if their cars weren't good enough. "I was merely considering volume for people and packs," I replied defensively; "however, now that you mention it, Ian's does stand out from the rest." We left Countdown and stopped at Summerhill Drive to pick up Tony. I rolled down Ian's electric window and said to Tony, "there's more room in Neil's car, it has a couple of nice, slim girls in the back." Adrienne and Anja, sitting behind me, immediately wanted to know what that made them. I'm not sure I have the political savvy to be a trip leader. We stopped at Oz's bakery in Otaki for fresh mehnuts and other yummys. I figured that if I stuffed my mouth with goodies, there'd be no room for my foot. Within 5mins of starting walking, we were at

the first of 4 stream crossings. Tony whipped out a couple of long nylon bags. He inserted a leg, boot 'n' all, into each bag, and waded across the stream. The rest of us all got our boots full of water. At another crossing, Tony had to stay in the middle of the river while we took photos. "Hurry up!" he demanded, "water's starting to seep in!" We debated whether a seamless bin liner might do as well, and how many crossings you could make before a hole would appear. We left the river and headed upwards. Everyone was impressed by how the steep slope hardly let up until we reached the top. At a rest stop, Sam passed around some orange-flavoured army ration thingies. The track was so steep that I told Sam we might get back to PN at 5:30 rather than 5.00. She said it'd be OK if she was a wee bit late for the birthday party.

Once we got above the bushline, the track was less steep, but very muddy. Oh, did I forget to mention the mud in the blurb? Nevermind, we'd cross the river again at the end of the trip. We had excellent views from the top at 1100m, and the Big Yellow made for a pleasant lunch break. Entertainment was provided by a glider, which soared towards Kapiti, and would later be spotted out near Mt Holdsworth. We spied on the glider with a device that Tony referred to as binos. I hope the pilot paid the appropriate people for use of the air space. Onwards to Kapakapanui Hut, where we had another rest. Coming up had been very steep, whereas going down was merely steep. It looked like it could be 6pm before we would arrive back in PN. Sam should only be an hour late for her appointment. Our boots got nice and clean crossing the river again. Finally back at the car, it was good to take off the wet boots. Two of Doug's body parts stood out as having received the attention of a woman. I said that would have to go in the trip report. However, Tony said that as he is again editor, his name might accidentally get spelled D.o.u.g.

We got back at 6:45. Sorry Sam (but it was only 5.45 normal time). ANYA WANTS IT ON THE RECORD THAT SHE SAW A PIG ON THE TRACK.



"Doug in mud"

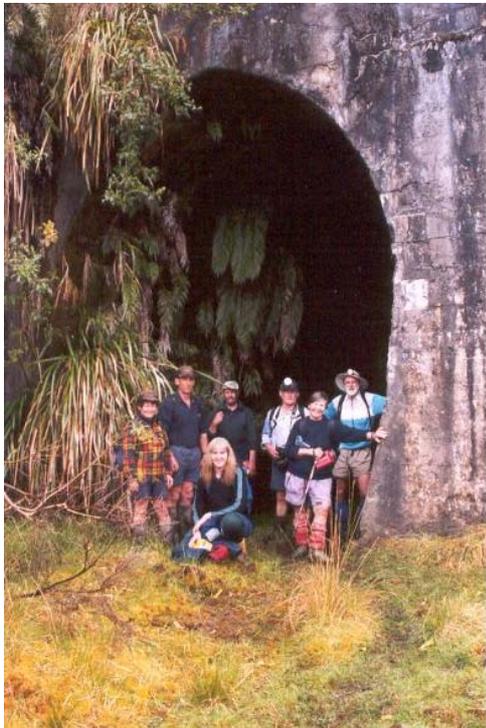
### **Mangaweka Tunnels, October 10. By Richard Lockett.**

Eight tunnelers met at the airplane in Mangaweka; Trip Leaders Edith and Malcolm Leary, with Fiona Donald, Ian Harding, Heather Purdie, Terry Crippen, Monica Cantwell, and scribe Richard Lockett.

A short drive saw us don boots on Terrace road overlooking the Rangitikei river, a shear drop of 120 metres only 3 metres from Terry's Wagon, with the brave having a look over the side and of the snow capped Ruahine's. No no not today but you could on Thursday. 5 mins along the road and through a gate saw us on the track, No sorry the formation, the track was what the trains ran on, long gone, 1981 to be precise when 9 km's of the North Island Main Trunk railway was deviated to the other bank of the Rangitikei. WHY? you ask.- The ground in this area being unstable stuff called Greywacke, slips etc and moving the formation ever closer to the cliff edge plus the track itself having tight curves and a steep grade 1 in 60 with five tunnels to boot all in 6 km's of track.

So, back to walking along the very muddy formation (carefully, as a wet arse was very achievable) through a cutting (where soil is removed to form the formation) round a curve passing an original gangers, hut and onto an embankment (where soil is tipped to fill in gullys etc) across which lay our first tunnel (hole bored through hill too high to do a cutting). This section of formation/track was constructed during 1902-04, and opened for traffic to Utiku on the 1st November 1904 which makes the tunnels one hundred years old, a good reason for

our presence, all tunnels on NIMT railway were named after animals which must have been in abundance locally all those years ago. Our first tunnel a short 76 metres long named Moose, our second at 174 metres named Elk (changed to Utiku) some time later, the third at 214 metres named Deer, the fourth at 545 metres named Possum (changed to Sandstone) some time later, the fifth at 410 metres named Black and it was, being curved at 180 metres radius to follow the curve of the river below. The two long tunnels had each a side tunnels leading out to the cliff edge- big enough for a person to fit to which we each had a go poking our heads out of the hole and looking down to the Rangitikei.



We pressed on towards Utiku meeting up with deviated railway track and continuing to the ToiToi Viaduct (59 metres long and 58 metres down to the stream below). No standing to close to the edge with this one, vertical cliff faces covered with ferns etc, very impressive.

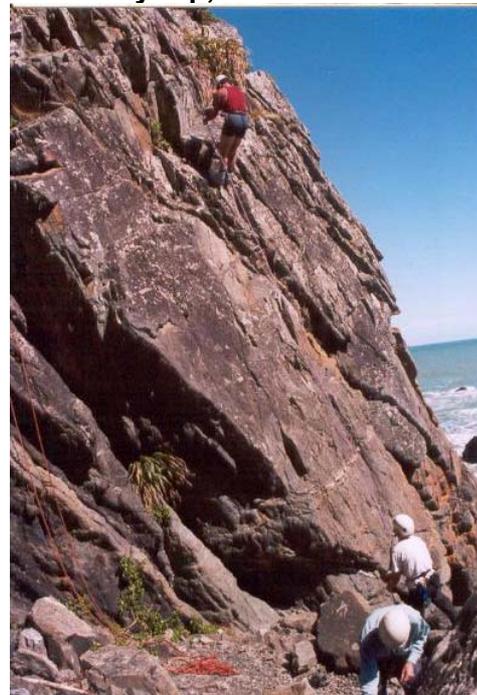
So we then retraced our steps for 300 metres, then followed the tracks out to the North Rangitikei Bridge (181 metres long 77 metres high) built by the Italians, one of three

very impressive concrete bridges on the deviated track, two crossing the Rangitikei river and one the Kawhatau river. Six brave soles ventured across in between passing trains. Lunch was taken on the northern bank beside the bridge with our leaders providing hot drinks, Fiona offered around a very tasty looking pumpkin and salmon quiche which unbeknown to her was still frozen. Edith had not advised us of the possibility of icy conditions being encountered nobody had an iceaxe with them. The quiche was repackaged and not seen again.

Time to head for home, a retracing of our steps through the tunnels back to the cars just as the rain came down heavy, hot drinks at Flat Hills sounded good and was. A good day.

Thanks to Edith and Malcolm who had to gain permission from three landowners to make this trip possible even persuading one to get an excavator in to clear slip debris from the formation in a couple of places.

#### Titahi Bay trip, 17 October.



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