



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - October 2005

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.

**13 Oct Club Night - Life in the Wild
Pete McGregor**

Pete McGregor is the Pohangina's premier outdoor photographer (apologies to Bruce) suggests the editor of the PNTMC newsletter. High praise indeed! If you have not visited Pete's website you should do so immediately so you can gain some idea about a very special night of quality digital photography.

<http://www.pohanginapete.blogspot.com>

Having witnessed Pete carry a 300mm lens around Arthur's Pass I know we are in for a visual feast as well as some unique insights. Don't miss this evening, you will regret it if you don't!

20 Oct Committee Meeting

**27 Oct Club Night - Fox Glacier
Heather Purdie**

I urge every club member to make it to Heather's Fox Glacier research presentation. It will be our last chance to farewell another of our members off to greener (whiter) pastures of Mt Cook in November. Heather has made a huge contribution to the club in the 18 months she has been with us. We wish she did not have to return to her beloved Mainland but unfortunately we understand. Her research at Fox Glacier is fascinating and the stories are brilliant. Again, this is our chance to say thank you to Heather. Let's do it in style. See you there!

Articles to Lance gray.family@actrix.co.nz or post to 37 Parata Street, Palmerston North (by 20th of the month)

TRIPS

**Oct 1-2 Tongariro-Ngauruhoe F/T
Warren Wheeler 356-1998**

Depart Friday night 6.00pm. Drive to comfy Eivins Lodge -\$20 each night. The plan is for Day 1 to involve an ascent of the west face of Ngauruhoe and Day 2 an ascent of Tongariro, both from Mangetopopo Road. Crampons, ice axes and cameras recommended. A swim at the hot pools at Tokaanu will also feature. Easy and Medium options are available if weather bad or you are not up to Plan A. Contact Warren anyway.

**Oct 2 Sledge Track M
John Feeney 354-2940**

Join John for the local pleasures of the Sledge Track at the end of Kahuterawa Rd. The Sledge Track has a number of interesting possibilities that should not be missed. Also, its localness means a generous starting time and good coffee and food at the end of the day. Contact John for a more generous Sunday sleep in.

**Oct 8-9 Forks Hut E
Llew Prichard 358-2217**

Your opportunity to go to a rarely visited hut on the western slopes of the southern Ruahines. Knowing Llew this will be familiar deer hunting territory. Contact Llew for a gentle overnight trip accessed from the Pohangina Valley.

**Oct 9 Knights - Short Loop M
Peter Darragh 353-0922**

This trip is accessed from near Sixtus Lodge in the Pohangina Valley and climbs to the Ruahine Range before traversing the tops and returning via the opposite ridge back to the carpark. Can offer superb views and snow on occasions. This is an excellent trip to find out whether you might like to

try some slightly more strenuous trips in the future. Please contact Peter for further details.

Oct 15-16 Carkeek Hut FE
Lance Gray 356-6454

Join Craig and I for a visit to the stronghold of VUTMC tramping in the Tararuas. Primary route is via McGregor Spur over Jumbo. Will look to return the same way unless I can organise transport to the contrary. May look to a Friday start depending on the keenness of the party (you listening Craig).

Oct 16 Kapiti Island (FULL) E
Janet Wilson

If you haven't already paid, chances are you are not going. Let's all pray for good weather. If this trip goes ahead this will have the largest PNTMC trip of the decade sewn up. A big thanks in advance for all of the work done by the clubs' big trip organiser: Janet Wilson.

Oct 21- 24 Whanokao, Ruakumaras F
Tony Gates 357-7439

After a successful Easter climb of Mt Hikurangi, an attempt is planned for Whanokao (Honokawa), slightly lower than Hikurangi but more impressive, less accessible, and very seldom climbed let alone crossed over or traversed. So we will give it a go, either an ascent by the "easiest way", or a cross over or traverse (wishful thinking). Travel up evening of Thurs, stay in Gisborne overnight then head up-the-coast Friday. Return to PN on the Tuesday. There are other possibilities if Whanokao not on. Fit Grade. Let Craig Allerby or Tony Gates know if interested. Terry is leading this but he is away till early Oct.

Oct 24 (Mon) Rangihut E
Duncan Hedderley 354-6905

Rangiwahia is a nice hut at the north end of the Pohangina valley which we don't visit as much as we might because of the slip on the track in. Take this opportunity to check out DoC's latest scramble around the slip, and hopefully get some good views of the Central Plateau. Gather at Countdown, 8.15, MONDAY

Oct 29-30 Totara Flats E
Ian Harding (06) 354 6905

Join Ian for one of the Tararuas premier sun bathing locations. Wait there is more: a new hut. Come inspect the second newest hut in the Tararuas (Roaring Stag is the newest). The walk into Totara Flats is ideal for those wanting to get into the heart of the Tararuas without too much effort. A great spot. Plenty of entertainment with

Ian as your trip leader too. Please contact Ian for more details.

Oct 30 Waiopahu Circuit F
Anja Scholz 356-6454

Located behind Levin, Waiopahu Hut has the distinction of being opened by Prime Minister Helen Clark. Join Anja for a lunch-break at the hut before venturing onto the tops over Waiopahu itself, past Ralph Wood's memorial, and then bombing down Gable End Ridge (the Dora Track) to the vehicles for a solid 8 hours of walking. Always a good day out. Meet Anja at the Countdown carpark for a 7am kick-off.

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 Technical skills reqd (T)

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

Fit (F): about 8 hrs Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

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)

From the Editor's Desk

A special welcome to all of the new faces that have been seen on recent trips. In particular the 15 or so that joined Richard for his trip up Sheridan Creek from the Otaki Forks road-end. Richard tells me that before the Thursday club-night interest was a bit thin so he was gob-smacked to have the numbers he did.

The weather has obviously contributed to the present good tramping. The fact the Tapuae-o-uenuku trip (Inland Kaikouras) went ahead is testament to the wonderful period we have just been through. My apologies to Bruce van Brunt for suggesting his absence was responsible. A definite case of association rather than cause and effect! I hope Korea is treating Bruce well. Our thoughts go out to Terry and Christine for their trip in Europe and a warm welcome to our leader Warren with his return from the blonde shores of Sweden.

NOTICES

Extended labour weekend trip, Hopkins Valley Spotlight, Babies and Weddings,

Extended Labour Weekend 21-25 Oct Mt Whanokao, Raukumara Range -Terry Crippen

After a successful Easter climb of Mt Hikurangi, an attempt is planned for Whanokao (Honokawa), slightly lower than Hikurangi but more impressive, less accessible, and very seldom climbed let alone crossed over or traversed. So we will give it a go, either an ascent by the "easiest way", or a cross over or traverse (wishful thinking). Travel up evening of Thurs, stay in Gisborne overnight then head up-the-coast Friday. Return to PN on the Tuesday. There are other possibilities if Whanokao not on. Fit Grade. Let Craig Allerby or Tony Gates know if interested. Terry is leading this but he is away till early Oct.

Hopkins Valley Spotlight 15th-18th Jan 2006 onwards. -Terry Crippen

The club plans to run an extended "tramping and climbing spotlight" based around the Hopkins Valley, at the head of Lake Ohau in the South Island. (Lake Ohau is the next lake south of Mt Cook's Lake Pukaki.) Huxley lodge is booked for 3 nights, with people arriving on Sunday 15th. (Run by Twizel School, the cost is \$11 pppn.) Find your own way south. You can drive to the lodge. Otherwise Twizel is on the main bus route, with services from/to Christchurch and elsewhere. Transport can then be arranged if necessary to the lodge.

The next couple of days can be spent on day trips, relaxing, fishing, whatever. Then Terry will be taking a 5-6 day Temple, Sth Huxley, Nth Huxley, Broderick Pass and back tramp (Grade M/F). Then he plans to run a climbing

trip for another week. There is unlimited scope to do your own thing for other tramps of various grades; a shorter Nth to Sth Temple circuit; up the Hopkins and into the Elcho valley, the Dassler Pinnacles on the Newman Range, or just camping up valley, etc. Terry has lots of info for ideas. See also "South Island Weekend Tramps" by Nick Groves, etc. Combine all this as part of your annual spell down south, or make it a good excuse to head south if you haven't lately! Let Terry know now so he can start planning details; 3563-588, email;

bluesky_tramping@clear.net.nz

Babies and Weddings

Congratulations to long time club member and dairy farmer Mary Crow, and hubby, on the addition of a baby to their family. And to ex club member Heather Bewick and husband Dave Mann, now living in Singapore, on their recent marriage (Terry C).

Interclub Photo Comp Results (19 Sep)

MUAC hosted the Interclub competition on Monday 19 September and **Clive Jones** selected the First and Second Prizes for each category. PNTMC scooped a good share of the excellent prizes provided by the many sponsors. **Bruce van Brunt** won first prize NZ Alpine for Douglas Neve and best print with Aspiring Weather. He also won second prize for NZ Natural History - Mt Cook Lily. **Terry Crippen** scooped the overseas category against stiff competition - Damp Lunch was first and Dolomites was second. Thanks to MUAC for organising such an excellent competition, and the sponsors for their support (Warren W).



Heather, Anne and Janet leaving Howletts Hut with Black's Ridge beyond. (Martin Lawrence)

TRIP REPORTS

Huntermore Lakes, Longview Hut, Howletts / Otumore

10 Jul - Huntermore lakes by Richard Lockett

The assembled party set off shortly after 9am and headed north out into the wilderness of the Leary farming empire which is positioned in the middle reaches of the Turakina river catchment.

After a steady climb we reached a high point roughly in the middle of the farm where Malcolm pointed out the boundaries of the property and out north the two lakes which we were to visit. Staying high up on the ridge we headed west and onto the neighbouring property at which point ***an amazing spectacle was to be seen, possibly the highlight of the trip for Malcolm, watching Neil attempt to climb over the standard Kiwi eight wire fence*** but

with the top wire being of the barbed variety. Not a pretty sight. I for one had visions of Buck Shelford playing on, in spite of injury's received.

Dropping off the ridge brought us to the edge of lake Ngaruru a popular duck shooting location judging by the amount of Maimai's present. A short walk through pine forest brought us to Lake Namunamu, which has legal walking access off the Turakina valley road and with an area of 70 acres popular for boating and water skiing for those who ask the farmer. Lunch was taken on a small wharf appointed with table and chairs suitable for the purpose.

A shower of rain had us up and back into the pines on a slow wander up and down the hills along the eastern boundary amongst squalls of wind and rain to reach Mangahoe road. It still being early afternoon Malcolm suggested

a side trip to a bush reserve 2 km's along the road Laird's bush reserve. Forest and bird have an interest in it, an original bush block in a sheltered gully beautiful tall straight trees saved for us all by the first European farmer who could see something special in this gully.

Whist checking out the bush Edith had collected the farm ute so that we could visit lake Maungaratanui which is sited on Malcolm's and Edith's other farm further down Mangahoe road

Sep 4 Longview Hut by Lance Gray

Nah, that wasn't the turn-off. It's much further along. Oops, welcome to the Mill Rd car-park! I could have sworn the turnoff (Kashmir Rd) was further along. Ah well, quick apologies to Peter who was following, and away again. Kashmir Rd as I remembered it has a couple of steep hills that did not seem not too difficult the last time I had been there.

towards Hunterville. ***The day was rounded off at the Leary homestead with tea, coffee, beer, wine, cake and a superb evening meal.*** Many thanks go to Malcolm and Edith for a very enjoyable day out in a part of our local area not visited by myself before. Crew: Pam, Kathy, Warren Wheeler, Barbara Mare, Doug Strachan, Trevor King, Neil Campbell, Richard Lockett, Malcolm and Edith Leary.

Mind you, I had been in Tony's four wheel drive and barely remember them. Well, the two bumps weren't too difficult in first gear for my stock standard Toyota but Peter needed a couple of goes with his Renault. The day was already eventful and we had only just made the road-end!



From left, John, Anja, Lance, Shona & Peter (Trevor King)

Peter organised the team photo on this already sun-baked September Sunday and we were off. Trevor decided to complete a

photographic essay this trip and was on to his third roll of film by the time we hit the hut. Trevor made sure this trip stayed at the

advertised easy/medium, this suited a number of us just fine. Lunch and a natter at Longview before the team split in two. Anja, Shona and Trevor set off to complete the loop along to the cut track to Daphne while at Peter's urging John, Peter and I headed up from Pohangina Saddle to Otumore and peak 1520 metres.

Up the top we had the good fortune to say hello to Heather's "not the Sawtooth Ridge trip" team having lunch in the tussock. Heather had fired her team up for a 7am visit to the top of Tiraha before making their way over towards us. Made good sense given the utterly fantastic conditions we all enjoyed. After quick photo visits to our peaks we chased Heathers team down to Pohangina Saddle. Tony, part of Heather's team, waited for us with water at Pohangina Saddle before

taking the short route back to my car and ferrying it down to the lower car-park (about 1.5km) to which we headed by the longer but much more pleasant route along the tops.

The bush by the end of the day was a welcome respite from the heat which is mind-boggling given that it was only four days into spring!

We arrived to the lower car-park to find Anja, Shona and Trevor had enjoyed a half-hour sun tanning session so all were happy. Certainly took the gleam off Trevor's legs! A quick car-ferry to pick up Peter's car and we were off to Dannevirke for a well earned ice-cream. John tells me the Woodville ice-creams were still better value for money. Never mind. We were Peter Wiles, John Feeney, Trevor King, Shona, Anja Scholz and Lance Gray.



Heather, Janet & Anne heading towards Sawtooth Ridge (Martin Lawrence)

Sep 3 & 4 Howletts / Otumore Sep 3 & 4 by Martin Lawrence

At the relatively leisurely hour of 8:30 we left Palmy, the five of us reasonably snug in Tony's car. Tony showed us the alternative route to Daphne starting from the old Moorcock base, but we opted for the

standard route, up and over the hill and down to paddle through the Tukituki River to Daphne. The first hill was hot work, more akin to what would be expected on a Summer tramp than early Spring, but we found ourselves even warmer climbing from Daphne to Howletts. I was heartened by

Tony's "promise" that there was likely some beer left in the locker at the hut. He probably shouldn't have mentioned this as all that was left was the carton. Never mind, many cups of tea probably did a better job of fluid replacement. The ridge was enveloped in cloud, so no views were to be had on the Saturday. But that night it was great to see stars as the clouds shifted. Janet gave us a sort of a commentary on the commentary of the All Blacks game, which she was able to catch on a very small radio.

We were all woken early by the young guy sharing the hut who was out early to look for deer. It was a great morning to be up early as we saw a great sunrise over a misty Hawkes Bay. ***Janet spotted six deer high on the ridge to the west, a great distance from our hut-mate who was somewhere to the North and too far from Tony who was also armed and ready.***

Heather's plan for this beautiful fine morning was to "pop over" to Tiraha before heading

south to Otumore and Longview. We left at 7 and made good time, apart from frequent stops to admire the view and take photos. Sawtooth Ridge looked stunning with some snow still on it. The 360 degree views of the Ruahines and Ruapehu from Tiraha were great on this blue-sky morning.

The day was warming up nicely so a cup of tea back at Howletts really hit the spot. We left the hut at 10 and headed South at a cracking pace for Otumore, wondering if we would see the Sunday group heading up from Longview. Sure enough there were 3 energetic people (Lance, Peter and John) heading up Otumore as we sat down just over the top for lunch.

Rather than head straight down from Longview, Heather suggested that we head along the ridge to the Daphne track. Tony left us for Longview and straight down and ended up shifting a car back down the road. It was great weekend to be on the Ruahine tops, and a great group to be there with – Heather, Janet, Anne, Tony and myself.



Richard Lockett and his Sheridan Creek whanau. (Trip Report?) (Trevor King)

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