



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

**Newsletter - September 2006**

## 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.*

**14 Sep Club Night  
David Grant  
Beyond Wool & Goretex**

David Grant, committee member and owner of Mountain Equipment will once again share with us what is happening in the world of outdoor clothing. Hard to believe we are already talking of moving beyond Goretex! Also, don't mention to Malcolm the bit about moving beyond wool or the "Feds" (Farmers) will be onto you!

**21 Sep Committee Meeting**

**28 Sep Interclub Quiz  
Competition (Venue TBA)**

Don't know much about anything? Come along and find out mountains of amazing stuff. Reckon you know a fair bit about things alpine and tramping? Join the PNTMC team or come along and help keep the referee honest. - Come along for a fun night. Contact Warren Wheeler 356-1998.

Articles to Lance [gray.family@actrix.co.nz](mailto:gray.family@actrix.co.nz) or post to 37 Parata Street, Palmerston North (by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month).

## TRIPS

**Sep 2-3 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.

**Sep 3 Ohau Valley E  
Duncan Hedderley 354-6905**

Meet 8.15 at Countdown for a walk in the hills behind Levin and below Waiopahu. For those of you less familiar with the area this is often used as a starting point to head to Te Matawai Hut for a Northern Crossing through to Mitre Flats Hut.

**Sep 9-10 Tapuae-o-uenuku Climb F/T  
Alasdair Noble 356-1094**

Last year was a ripper but please read the report so you find the gate! A superb climb in the Inland Kaikouras which was the scene of Ed Hillary's first real summit. Great opportunity to extend your new climbing skills. Contact Alasdair for further details.

**Sep 10 Rangiwahia Hut E/M  
Malcolm Parker 357-5203**

Join Malcolm for a visit to PNTMC's former hut. In the past this has been one of the most popular routes into the Ruahines but now with the major slip each trip is a new adventure so don't be surprised if you end up on the Deadman's track for variety. Contact Malcolm for the latest trip details.

**Sep 16-17 Syme Hut-Mt Taranaki M**  
**Warren Wheeler 356-1998**

Named after one of Taranaki's famous sons' Rod Syme. Syme Hut sits close to Fantham Peak on the southern side of Mt Taranaki. You will find out the warmth of your sleeping bag on this one as the hut is frequently encased in snow and ice. You might have the fun of digging your way in. Good opportunity for a climb if the conditions allow. Ice axe and crampons will be an absolute necessity. Contact Warren for further details.

**Sep 17 Longview Hut Circuit M**  
**Peter Wiles 358-6894**

Join Peter for this superb circuit in the Eastern Ruahines north of Dannevirke. The drive itself is very satisfying as much of the climbing is already done for you! An excellent tramp that gives those with extra energy the opportunity to climb the odd peak or two. Otherwise you can just cruise along the tops in the sun. Contact Peter for further details.

**Sep 23-24 Waterfall Hut M/F**  
**Nigel Gregory 354-8124**

Join Nigel for a visit to the classic Waterfall Hut on the Kawhatau River in the heart of the Ruahines. A trip with a number of options that may require the use of ice-axe and crampons given the snow around this year. Contact Nigel for further details.

**Sep 24 Sledge Track M**  
**Anja Scholz 356-6454**

Close to home and doable even when the ranges are hidden in windblown clouds and snow, we'll head for a good workout at the end of Kahuterawa Road. Meet at Countdown carpark at 8 am.

**30- Oct 1 Leon Kinvig M**  
**Craig Allerby 323-7913**

Up either Knight's or Short's track through to Leon Kinvig Hut for the night. Return in similar fashion. Leon Kinvig Hut lies along the Pohangina River which is home to blue duck. A trip with Craig will always be a cruisy occasion so don't miss the opportunity to chill out in the Ruahines.

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)

## Guest Editorial

### Overseas Tramping Fashions:

#### Going Native

by Bruce van Brunt

It seems that more than ever our club members are embarking on trips/expeditions to various exotic places. Amongst the committee, it appears that in August alone the President is somewhere in Scandinavia, the Vice President is destined for South Korea, and another member is to visit Mongolia. Closer to home, another member is going to experience the Australian desert. Yet another member (Tony Gates) makes frequent trips to South America. We certainly travel, and this brings me to the topic of this editorial, *viz.*, overseas tramping fashions.

Doubtless, most of us have been to places such as Mt Cook village that are magnets for overseas tourists and trampers. It is not unusual, for example, to see a group of say Asian tourists, marching up the track to the terminal lake of the Hooker glacier, bedizened in what appears to be inappropriate or simply amusing clothing. For instance, I recall walking up this track on a hot but slightly drizzly day and being confronted with a tourist wearing a full one piece gortex suit—the kind you see people wearing at higher altitudes in the Himalaya.

My particular favourite was watching two ex-Army Israeli trampers making their way to Mueller hut in appalling weather and high

wind wearing garbage sacks for protection. From above, they appeared to be two sails foundering on a hillside. Deep down we all draw some amusement from seeing such sights. Have we ever thought what we look like when we are overseas? Perhaps we are reciprocating the entertainment.

Picture this scenario: You travel to Japan to climb Mt Fuji. Along with many others you take a coach to the beginning of the climb, and then pop out of the coach in what appears to be your long underwear covered scantily with a pair of old shorts. The morning is cool but the day becomes hot. The track is crowded, so you cannot change with any modesty and hence you continue in your peculiar garments. Everyone wonders why you chose to show off your long underwear to the general population of Japan on this day. Who is the "Wally"?

My limited tramping experience in Korea taught me if nothing else to be aware of local fashions. (Exposed long underwear is certainly not one of them.) My first tramp in Korea was with the eyes of a New Zealand trumper. I found myself mildly bemused at the garments and implements the Koreans use tramping. For example, we seldom see trampers in NZ with umbrellas and towels. After a few tramps, however, I realized that there was logic at work here.

The early autumn climate was hot and humid: a towel around the neck was a blessing because of the incredible amount of perspiration caused from even modest exertion. There seldom seems to be much wind during this period, but there are short heavy warm downpours of rain. If you want to keep the rain off, an umbrella is much more comfortable than a raincoat in which you are guaranteed to roast. You might look like Mary Poppins, but hey it works under these conditions.

By the end of my first two month stint in Korea, I went slightly native. My last few tramps included a tramping towel around the neck and, at least on the short nearby tramps, a small umbrella that doubled as protection for my camera when shooting in the rain. I have yet to figure out why many Koreans wear immaculately clean white

cotton gloves on tramps, particularly when the weather was so hot. I hope to solve this mystery on the next visit.

Given the New Zealand focus on tramping, it is tempting to think that we are in some sense the "benchmark" of how people should dress and be equipped in the outdoors. We must remember, however, that in NZ we rarely tramp in steaming jungles, high and low deserts, and in places where the weather is considerably more stable. When tramping overseas we can learn more about what works—at least over there. The arctic explorer Franklin certainly could have benefited from watching the Inuits and Eskimos. (I gather they all froze, Ed)

I do not expect that I will ever use an umbrella in the Ruahines. I do not think that Terry will begin using Yaks on his multi-day trips down south, or that Janet will be wearing a hat with lots of corks on it in the Tararuas. We may, however, see some "foreigner" on the track with curious clothing and implements (probably not a Yak). We can smirk, and after they pass perhaps remember with a laugh, the day we showed our vintage pair of long johns and weathered shorts to the world.

## NOTICES

**We welcome the following new members to PNTMC:**

- Murray Gifford
- Steven Hawkes & Toni van der Meer
- Meguru Inone
- Barbra Cowan & Tim Kannegieter

## FMC Courses

Hi All,

You may have noticed in the last newsletter that we have advertised some a couple of courses coming up later this year.

### 1. Above Bushline Skills.

30 September - 1 October 2006, Ruapehu.

Navigation, risk management, travel on snow, scree, rock and tussock, kicking and cutting steps, self arrest, basic belays, safety handline, hazards and weather are all covered. Camping on snow on Saturday

night. This is a full-on practical weekend, learning through doing.

## 2. Leadership. Tongariro, 11-12 November 2006.

Risk management, planning, people management, group dynamics, navigation, emergency procedures, environmental care and liability. This workshop offers an excellent opportunity to discuss leadership issues and increase skills. There will be practical exercises to illustrate and reinforce aspects of leadership.

As it's FMC's 75th Anniversary this year, they are subsidising the courses by 50%. PNTMC will also subsidise up to 4 people on each course a further 50% so the cost to you will be **\$20 for Above Bushline Skills** and **\$40 for the Leadership course**, plus transport costs. This seems very reasonable, for what are very worthwhile courses.

We are hoping club members, especially those that lead courses will take up the opportunity. Don't worry if you think you don't have enough skills/experience already, as I know from experience that they cater for a wide variety of skill levels. Alternatively, the Above Bushline Skills course is still useful if you have snow skills already and it gives you the opportunity to practise and develop your leadership skills.

**Get back to me asap please** - I am heading off to Australia at the end of next week for a few weeks and want to get this sorted, especially the first course. Cheers.  
Janet Wilson

### **Preliminary Notice by Terry Crippen**

Oct 21-24 Kahurangi National Park F  
Terry Crippen 356-3588  
(Labour Weekend Saturday 21 to Tuesday 24 October). This will be a circuit up the Ellis River, along the Arthur Range past the Twins, then down the Baton River (water levels and weather permitting – other options if necessary); hut and tenting, track, river travel and open tops. The plan is to fly to Nelson early Sat morning, be taken to the road end, and return to Nelson airport afternoon on Tuesday.

You will have to book your own flights or otherwise to be at the Nelson airport for the start/finish times. Contact Terry (3563-588) from 27th September on for details and flights.

### **Avalanche Awareness**

There have been some big avalanches on Mt Egmont, and no doubt elsewhere in the North island with all this snow. Avalanches are one of the big dangers both in winter and summer snow country.

The NZ Mountain Safety Council runs short avalanche awareness courses (an evening lecture followed by a day on the slopes), as well as longer ones. Well worth going on if you are a tramper skier or climber.

The next one on Mt Ruapehu is Friday night 25 September and Sat 26th. For more info, the full listing of courses and also the link to the avalanche advisory (ie what the avalanche danger is currently at your favourite area), visit the NZMSC web site;  
[www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz)



Terry Crippen Peter Wiles in Red Crater on Mt Tongariro.



Peter Wiles and Warren Wheeler taking in the views of Mt Ngauruhoe

## TRIP REPORTS

### MSC 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Course, Hike to Herepai, Oturere, Palmy Walkways

#### MSC Outdoor 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Course

July 21-22

By Martin Lawrence

This was attended by Tony, Anne and Martin and partially subsidised by PNTMC. The programme started on Friday evening, finished on Sunday afternoon was very full. We were a mix of ages, sizes and experience, from newbies like me to people that were re-validating their certificate.

I found the information really useful, though it was a bit of a cram and we all seemed to be wilting a bit by the end of the day. Most useful were the practical exercises and the large number of scenarios. I felt that we all would be of some use if we stumbled across some disaster in the bush, which I guess was the whole point really.

Our only niggle this weekend was the cold. Foxton Boys Brigade camp is a very chilly place to spend a weekend in Winter!

Thanks to PNTMC for subsidising us on the course, and to the Tom, Jen and Heather from MSC for a very valuable course.

#### Hike to Herepai

July 23

By Jennifer Lawn

How I got roped into writing the trip report for my first club trip I'll never know... However, let me begin. It all started early Sunday morning when Terry Crippen, Doug Strachan, John Feeney, Meguru Inoue (another first timer) and I, met for our day trip to the back of beyond. Herepai Hut in the NE Tararuas was our destination and we all piled into the beast, ready to go.

Small-world connections were discovered while the brigade in the backseat fought the roll-together. It turns out I work with Meguru at AgResearch (it's a big place) and I used to live around the corner from John in Dunedin.

Off towards Eketahuna on the windy road then to the start of the track. Terry does a good job of avoiding loose sheep on the gravel road, a pretty fancy gravel road we all agree.

Bags out, gaiters on, I find myself wondering if the rumours are true. Should I have brought my gumboots along to the Tararuas? Only time will tell and we're not sure about the snow levels either. An easy stroll along the Kawakawa lined track beside the river carries us towards our swing bridge munch break. The mud hasn't been nearly as bad as anticipated and the fine weather is holding out. Doug plays with his GPS as we move on.

The trees get shorter and shorter as we climb steadily up towards the ridgeline. A good work out, highly reminiscent of the first day of the Hump Ridge Track. We all make good time however with no one left waiting at the top. Then the wind picked up. We'd seen clouds whizzing past above us all morning in the sheltered valley but boy was it blowing up the top. We strode on towards the hut and over the non-existent swing bridge. Some map maker's having a laugh, who puts a swing bridge on a ridge?? A window in the bush allows us a clear view of the surrounding hills and after debating how much further it is to the hut, it appears ten paces later.

Cups of Terry's unidentifiable tea were dispensed during our lunch stop to warm us up, it was good to be out of that wind. Meguru tells us the differences between tramping in New Zealand and tramping in Japan: apart from having more snow, there are no tree ferns or mosses in Japan, bears and snakes are to be avoided, they have many hot pools, and they don't wear shorts!

After lunch the decision was made to carry on up to Herepai peak. The tramp turned from easy to medium with difficulties encountered making a straight line in the tussock. Patches of ice and sludgy snow lay about but nothing like the knee deep snow I'd envisioned. After a photo op halfway up we decide to plough on.

A rest at the top with more windblown photos

taken. The camera work efforts were particularly amusing in the gale. Terry yells 'this camera's not very good with movement!' as he tries to stand upright to take the shot. The walk down went a lot faster as it always does and we were glad to reach the tree line then back to the shelter of the hut. Although it was tough going both John and I agreed we we're glad we'd pushed on to the peak. There's nothing like challenging yourself.

We made a quick hustle on from the hut before we got too cold. A dicky knee on the way down led me to borrow Terry's walking pole. 'It's probably from all the cycling and running I've been doing' I claim but in retrospect it was more likely from dancing in town the night before!

Back to the beast and a rotation in the back seat. With a late finish and thoughts of dinner we skip the traditional ice cream stop and head back to P Ninny. A good day was had by all and my thanks go to Doug for organising our hike to Herepai.

### **Oturere 5-6 August By Peter Wiles**

The forecast for the weekend seemed promising so it was agreed that we leave on Friday evening. Despite leaving Palmy in fine conditions, running through showers/rain from Taihape to Waiouru and fog patches on the Desert Road, conditions at the road end were reasonable – good visibility, no wind and very light drizzle. We set off shortly after 9:30 pm with parkas on, but soon got rid of them as we were sweating more than being rained on. Arrival at Waihohonu Hut at about 10:30 was accomplished without incident. A small party was still up so we did not disturb anyone on arrival.

Next morning was fine and slightly frosty with good visibility and again no wind. We reached an empty Oturere Hut at 10 a.m. and tackled an early lunch, which included a substantial billy of mixed soup/pasta/noodles. There were patches of snow around the hut and the weather seemed reluctant to clear but remained promising. We headed out around midday up the track through the lava field towards Emerald Lakes. The snow

gradually became more continuous but was reasonably firm. We had another snack and then inspected a fumerole (with fumes) which gushed out nearby with the sound of a washing machine on the rinse cycle. There were a few parties in the area, including one doing some snow-crafting close to the track crossing Central Crater.

We then climbed into Red Crater and inspected the narrow gully that was previously the remnants of the old vent. A problematic exit prevented us climbing out the top so we dropped to the crater floor and sidled up kicking good steps to the rim near the southern end. It became evident that the weather was not clearing but was gradually deteriorating. In patchy mist we sidled off the slopes of Red Crater kicking steps, back down to the lava field and track, reaching the hut about 4:30. We had made the most of the day.

With the hut to ourselves we organised a leisurely meal and retired. By this stage the wind from the northerly quarter had risen to a gale and rain was driving high up the hut porch.

It rained and blew all night and continued unabated for the walk back to the car. One side stream required some care and the track between Waihohonu and the road was like a stream for considerable distances. We lunched back at Waiouru. Team: Martin Lawrence, Terry Crippen and Peter Wiles.

### **Palmy Walkways 6 August By Duncan Hedderley**

Sunday dawned rainy, and only a small group of us met up for the walk. We headed down Fitzherbert, across the bridge, and explored some of the paths and reserves in among the new housing on Summerhill Drive and out by International Pacific College. If it hadn't been constantly raining, it would have been a good walk; Anne runs out there, and you can take bikes through bits of it.

After 2 hours (fairly brisk) walking we headed back into town and stopped at the Elm Cafe, opposite the cricket stadium. Anne had thought to do a bit more (going along the river down from the bridge), but in light of the weather we just had elevenses and returned to town. We were Anne Lawrence, Sandra Kim and Duncan Hedderley.



PNTMC Photo Competition - Tararua Navigation, by Tony Gates

I heard there were gales of laughter when the audience were asked for the title of this photo! I won't make any further comment other than to say that Nigel and Tony must be very trusting!

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