



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - December 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 Dec End of Year BBQ Ashhurst Domain

Our End of Year BBQ and Annual Prize-giving will be held near the shelter in the Ashhurst Domain, entrance is off the Main Highway. BYO food and drink to share, a small \$2 gift for the Xmas tree, and a portable BBQ if you have one. If you have queries or would like transport, phone Warren 356-1998.

18 Jan Committee Meeting

25 Jan BBQ at Horseshoe Bend

Our first club night for 2007 is a BYO BBQ at Horseshoe Bend Reserve, Tokomaru. From 6.30pm till dusk. Enjoy warm weather, a refreshing swim, and tall tales from the backcountry over fine wine, cool beer, sizzling steak, specialty breads, fresh crispy salad and anything else you might like to bring. For transport and any queries, contact Warren 356-1998.

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

TRIPS

Dec 2-3 Whakahoro-Kaiwhakauka M Ian Harding 06-376-5707

Whakahoro lies on the Wanganui River directly east of National Park. The Kaiwhakauka Track runs directly south meeting up with the well known Mangapurua Stream taking you back to the Wanganui River. This looks like a fascinating trip so get hold of Ian for further details.

Dec 3 Roaring Stag Lodge M Dave Grant 357-8269

Accessed from the Putara Raodend in behind Eketahuna. This day trip visits one of the Tararua's newest huts with a wealth of interesting side trips such as the hidden lake or simply wandering up the beautiful Ruapae Stream. Contact Dave for further details.

Dec 10 Burttons Track M Martin Lawrence 357-1695

Here's a chance to walk our one small piece of Te Araroa. We will start from Scotts Road and head South. For much of the walk we'll be in the very pleasant Tokomaru Valley where we'll see some relics of Jim Burton's farming operation. We will end up on the Mangahao Road behind Shannon.

Dec 16-17 Triangle Hut M Janet Wilson 329-4722

Triangle Hut in the Ruahines provides the ideal destination for this Xmas trip so bring plenty of goodies for a pot luck type dinner. Leaving PN 7am. Contact Janet for further details.

Jan 13-14 PNTMC 2007 M
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Join Warren for this classic Tongariro National Park trip which involves a tramp/climb of Ngauruhoe and then they may go to Crater Lake on Ruapehu such that "TMC" is Top of the Bruce, 'Mergency Coffee Stop and Chairlift. Contact Warren for further details.

Jan 14 Botanical Tramping E
Peter van Essen 355-907

At last someone to answer all of those questions about various plants you can never remember the names of. A true easy day out. Contact Peter for further details.

Jan 20-22 Ruahine Ramble M/F
Graham Peters 329-4722

A Ruahine ramble with Graham is always sure to surprise so get in early with your favourite route variations. Given this is Wellington Anniversary Weekend this is a great opportunity to cover some new ground with the extra day to explore. Contact Graham for further details.

Jan 22 Stanfield Hut E
Duncan Hedderly 354-6905

Meet 8.15 Monday for a visit to the hills behind Dannevirke. We'll probably go in along a ridge, and come back out down the river, so you'll get wet feet, but probably not wet shorts.

Jan 27-28 Haurangi Range M/F
Martin Lawrence 357-1695

Located toward the South Coast of the Wairarapa the Haurangi Range offers something different from the usual Tararua and Ruahine fare. Contact Martin for this little visited tramping area.

Jan 28 Pohangina River Ramble M
Richard Lockett 323-0948

Hopefully by January the sun will have come out and the thought of river trip will bring pleasant thoughts! Richard never lacks for imaginative trips so contact him for further details.

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)

NOTICES

Weather Websites

As promised, here are a few web sites that should prove informative to those who choose to go down that route. Courtesy of Richard Heerdegen.

<http://eng.jcu.edu.au/JCUMetSat/sector-d.gif>

<http://eng.jcu.edu.au/JCUMetSat/ausmovie.gif>

<http://www.metservice.co.nz/default/index.php>

<http://www.metvuw.com/radar/radar.php?location>

[=nz](#)

<http://www.metvuw.com/forecast/forecast.php?ty>

[pe=rain®ion=nz](#)

<http://www.metvuw.com/nzweather/>

<http://satellite.landcareresearch.co.nz/noaa/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/W>

<XDailyHistory.asp?ID=IMANAWAT1>

<http://www.wunderground.com/global/stations/93>

[404.html](#)

<http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/tmcgavin/curre>

[nt_nzweather.html](#)

Winning Recipe

Janet and Grahams Winning Chilli Mince Recipe

Take 1/2 packet Backcountry freeze dried mince, add some dried peas/carrots, 1/2 to 1 pkt Maggie Chilli Con Carne mix (depending on how hot you like your chilli) and 1 pkt tomato cup of soup. Add water according to the mince packet. Bring to boil while stirring, then simmer for 10 minutes or so. - you may need to add more water. Serve with couscous or instant mashed potato for a really quick tasty meal Serves 2 - use the whole packet of mince for 4-5 people. Better still with fresh brocolli and carrots. If you have time, soak the mince for awhile before cooking to allow it to rehydrate more. This is a nice treat and change from instant pasta for the meat eaters.

PNTMC's FIRST 40yrs

The task of dissecting 40yrs worth of newsletters, and organising the information, is coming along well. However, the goal of finishing the project this year is impossible to

attain. After hundreds of hours of work, I am perhaps 80% of the way there. A sustained effort over the summer should see a final product (on disk) ready early next year.

You will, for example, be able to find files containing all Coppermine Creek trip reports, or all interclub debates over the last 40yrs. With over 400 newsletters, there are a lot of trip reports to cut, paste, reformat; and read to find highlights. Now, if you will excuse me, I have to get back to a virtual tramp up the Orongorongo.

Doug Strachan

New Year Trip – “Saddle Up”

3-6th January

Early notice for a trip in the Ruahines to get you back in the right frame for a return to work. This trip intends to visit the Pohangina Saddle, Sawtooth Ridge, Rangiwahia Saddle, Waipawa Saddle and Armstrong Saddle. Contact Warren Wheeler to secure your position in the team ph 356-1998.



Pohangina No 1 Line : Team inspects rimu tree (Trevor King)

TRIP REPORTS

<p align="center">The Sound of the Kokako – Pureora, FMC Leadership Workshop, Excursion Maroepa, Sunrise Lodge (ex hut)</p>
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**The Sound of the Kokako, Pureora
28-29 Oct
by Janet Wilson**

I hear it, the unmistakable sound of the Kokako, waking me fully from my semi conscious state. A moment of confusion - where am I? No, not up in the forest tower, amongst the mighty rimu, but tucked up in bed - it's the National radio bird call, playing the Kokoko rather appropriately on the morning after our return from Pureora.

Anja, Graham and myself left PN around 5pm on the Friday afternoon, picking up Richard on the way through Feilding. Just before Waiouru we caught up with Terry and Meguru, who were heading up to Ruapehu for a climbing weekend. We had a meal together at Waiouru, then carried on to Pureora, arriving after dark - found the key to our DOC cabin with no problems but had quite a bit of difficulty making it work in the lock. Richard eventually persuaded it to turn. The cabin was nice, would sleep at least 6, with it's own fridge and stove and showers nearby - luxury.

We were armed with the Pureora Forest park brochure, which listed and explained all sorts of walks and things to see, ranging from a multiday walk through to a visit to an old tractor, just off the road.

Next morning we set off fairly bright and early to do the Mt Titiraupenga Tramping Track. The forestry roads were a bit rough for the little Corolla and we were glad we hadn't taken a short cut the night before. It was drizzling a bit but not too bad. It was easy tramping on a good bush track. An interesting feature of this track is that it passes through the geographical centre of the North Island, where there is a cairn and explanatory plaque. We met a group of young people who looked like they were out for a Duke of Ed trip and indeed they were. Got back to our cabin in time for afternoon

tea and then headed out to do the Totara Walk (30min - near the field centre). This was a particularly nice mixed podocarp forest. We then drove to the so called Waipapa Short walk (1 hour in the brochure)

This was where we were hoping to hear some Kokako - its a nice easy walk through lovely forest with big trees, We spent some time just sitting and listening but there were no Kokako. The walk took a bit longer than planned and we got back to the car as it was getting dark - all up, about 8 hours walking that day - a good effort as the trip was only graded E/M!

I had planned to do the Waipapa walk early the next morning, hoping to hear the birds, but we changed our plan to a pre-dawn assault on the 12m high forest tower, not far from the Field Centre. So, we all got up at 5am and climbed up the tower, where we dozed and listened to the dawn chorus. There were heaps of birds, including screeching Kaka, but sadly, no Kokako. We went back for breakfast when it got light and packed up our things.

As the weather wasn't that good, we decided not to do the tramp to the top of Pureora but instead to look at more of the local sights. So we did that, checking out the Old Crawler Tractor and Vintage Steam Hauler, the Buried Forest and the Pouakani Totara Tree, the largest recorded totara tree in NZ - this fenced off monster is well worth a look. We also checked out the Waihora Lagoon Walking Track, to a rather swampy lake surrounded by lovely big rimu and kahikatea. We continued on home from here. A very enjoyable weekend, thanks to those who came along.

We were Richard Lockett, Anja Scholz, Graham Peters and Janet Wilson (leader and scribe).

FMC Leadership Workshop
11-12 Nov
by Anja Scholz

This week-end workshop was recently attended by Terry Crippen, John Feeney, Meguru Inoue and me. It was run by FMC's John Wilson and outdoor safety expert Ray Goldring, and well catered for by John's wife Jean and FMC secretary Barbara Marshal. We arrived in the dark and cold on Friday night, and after a briefing about the coming events and a hot cuppa retired to our bunks. There were 15 participants from WOPS, Waikato TC, AUTC and Masterton TC.

At the civilized time of 8:30 our workshop started with the groups defining and talking about "what is leadership" – its roles, responsibilities, duties and attributes. While having assumed leadership for club trips before, it was a good exercise to bring to mind all those things done consciously, unconsciously, and possibly not at all (so far). We continued with a role play of different leadership styles, from laissez-faire (or "she'll be right") to autocratic ("my way or the highway"), which showed that there was not "one style for all occasions", but that different situations might require different handling.



Anja & Terry in Discussion (Megure Inoue)

After lunch we carried on with a bit of map and compass work, and eventually incorporated the morning "lessons" into a trip planning and leadership exercise – we were given a route to cover, time of year, length of trip, participants, and were to plan a trip accordingly. Risks and hazards had to be evaluated and catered for e.g. weather,

participants, group gear, transport, first aid etc., to make sure it would be a successful trip for the group. The route we were given (Waipakihi River/Urchin Range) sounded quite a good tramp, so maybe it will appear as a real option on the next trip card !!

We ended the day with each of our subgroups planning an exercise for the rest of the group, with proper instruction, hazard evaluation and elimination, and "fear factor" (d'uh). This turned out to be great fun: blindfold races, getting the group members over strange obstacles and through an "electric" fence without touching. Not hard to translate these into "real possible obstacles/hazards" like rivers, boulders etc.

After a well earned sleep the Sunday started with planning a "real" trip to a nearby clearing, through the bush and scrub, and using map and compass again. Each subgroup was to lead part of the trip – because there was actually a track leading to the clearing this easy option was taken – as with real tramping, why waste energy on making things harder than they need to be... On the way to the clearing several "incidents" happened that required "leadership", decision making, organizing etc., and although a mock scenario, the hypothermia, concussion, missing party member and quarrelling party members seemed real enough on the track, especially since the weather was cold and rainy, so no one could be kidded that it was a nice day out....

Lunch, clean up and a short debrief ended the workshop, and the four of us eventually arrived back in Palmerston North late afternoon on the Sunday. I think all four of us had a good time, learned a lot – from the exercises and by talking to the facilitators and other tramping club members – and will try and incorporate and pass on what we have learnt. Slightly corporate speak sounding expressions like "risk management", "hazard evaluation", "group control" certainly left the theoretical ground and became "real" when applied to the tramping situation.

Thanks to the workshop leaders, our caterers, and to FMC and PNTMC for sponsoring the workshop.

**Excursion Maropea
18-19 Nov
by Tony Gates**

It was going to take more than a poor weather forecast to put us off a stroll to the north eastern Ruahines, to the classic Maropea Forks area. Both the weather and the forecast were bad, however, there were a few periods of only semi bad weather, and even the occasional nano second of sunshine to lure us on.

We three hardened Ruahine trampers - Graham Peters, Janet Wilson, and Tony Gates - could therefore enjoy one of our favourite places of tussock tops, river flats, beech forest, and good huts. And the total circuit took about 14 hours- a comfortable two day excursion.

On Saturday, the weather in the ranges actually looked OK from the Sunrise Hut car park, and we were soon up at Sunrise Hut (mansion) admiring the Ruahine tops from a closer perspective. We then stuck to the tops, and headed north along the main Ruahine range to Sparrowhawk Biv.

The weather turned extremely bad after our lunch stop, with ferocious wind and lashing rain, as we struggled over point 1476, then Maropea peak. At least it was warm. Sparrowhawk Biv was a very welcome shelter. From the biv, it was a rapid and easy descent down a scree to lower and more sheltered climes in the upper Maropea river. We chased one deer en route.

A mostly easy riverbed stroll brought us to the well appointed Maropea Forks Hut by 5.30 PM. A slip had dammed the river in one place, forming a huge log jam and a deep lake. Luckily, a sidle was easy.

We reluctantly departed our cosy abode into a much cooler Sunday. Clag remained on the tops high above us. The route back home passed Top Maropea Hut, with more excellent river travel, and tame whio here and there. They were willing models, and we suspected that this behaviour was to distract us away from their nests. We marvelled at them rock hopping along the rapids and flying

up and down the river. Like Saturday's route, there were several excellent campsights. We encountered a bit of rain up high as we rapidly ascended to Top Maropea Hut for an early lunch. The last little hill passed in a blur of mist, wind, and mud, leading to one of the most dramatic sections of the trip just above Sunrise Hut. Wind velocity increased markedly, blowing us over more than once. It was the sort of wind that forced us to turn our heads away to allow breathing, and tramping was reminiscent of a very drunken stagger. We bypassed the day tripping crowds at Sunrise Hut and enjoyed the good stroll back down the ridge to the car. Rannunculus, Olearia, and kotukutuku were flowering.



A cold day into Maropea Forks Hut! (Tony Gates)

**Sunrise Lodge (ex Hut)
19 Nov
by Su Tang**

Grey, bleak, cloudy Sunday morning. Snuggle back into bed? No!! Off to Sunrise Hut. Patches of blue sky after driving through the Gorge ...promising... look towards the Ruahines .. cloud all along ... oh well.

It was spitting just as we started, but we were soon in the shelter of trees. Once again, was cursing my short legs (lower centre of gravity is overrated) and my unfitness as we zig-zagged up to Sunrise Lodge. Resorted to the oft-used ruse of stopping on the pretext of inspecting the flora.

Was quite easy to carry off, as many of the plants were in bud, or in flower. Clematis, buttercup, white flowers on viney thingee... Minimal views on ascension. No view on top

due to the stinging rain and strong winds ... last I heard, none of the cub scouts we met at the hut had been blown away by the wind. We opted to take the Waipawa stream option back to the carpark.

Fortunately, the sun came out for our pleasant stroll down the streambed (with questions the next day by work colleagues on how I managed to get sunburnt). Murray decided against bringing home "a small rock

with a beech tree growing on it", despite how well it would look in his garden. Hint to self on not being on South Island anymore .. lupins are all yellow here, not multi-hued.

No trip is complete without an icecream, which Ongaonga obligingly provided.

We were Murray Gifford, Warren Wheeler and Su Tang.



Back to School: FMC Leadership Course (Meguru Inoue)

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