



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - March 2007

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.

8 Mar Outback Adventure Graham & Janet

Crikey! Ten days in a Toyota - no, not a tramp but a road trip to the red centre of Australia. Come along and hear about our trip from Adelaide to Alice Springs last September.

22 Mar Committee Meeting

29 Mar AGM & FMC 75th Show Warren Wheeler

The annual General Meeting will start at 7.45pm and will feature a post election-year address by the President and a fiscal and finance report by the Treasurer. Nominations for the Executive will be accepted no later than immediately prior to election on the night.

We will then show a short DVD celebrating 75 years of FMC in New Zealand.

Articles to Lance gray.family@actrix.co.nz or post to 48 Savage Crescent, Palmerston North (by 20th of the month).

TRIPS

Mar 4 Makairo E Fiona Donald 356-1095

Depart 8am from Countdown Supermarket carpark for an easy tramp along the Makairo Track. We will be going to this Track from the Pahiatua end, behind the Mangatinoka Tui Brewery, to the western part of the track. This route is along an abandoned road and this road was officially closed in 1975. We will be walking through bush on a progressively steeper track towards the Waewaepa summit. We may go as far as the farmland for lunch. Usually it is easy travelling, about 4 hours return, however there is plenty on Ongaonga stinging nettle in this area and it pays to carry some extra antihistamine ointment if you come into contact with the prickly barbs.

Mar 10-11 Mitre Flats E/M Peter Darragh 353-0922

A great weekend in the eastern Tararuas. You can just cruise into the hut or for the more keen among you there is always the climb to the summit for the stunning views to the interior of the Tararuas. Great summit for having lunch before turning around and heading home. Contact Peter for further details.

Mar 11 Rangī - FMC Meeting E Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Departing 8am from the Countdown carpark. This is your opportunity to ear-bash the FMC executive on your way to Rangī Hut. This day is open to all club members so don't be shy on what is always an enjoyable day out to one of our favourite huts.

**Mar 17-18 Holdsworth Tramp & CampE
Janet Wilson 329-4722**

This is planned to be a social weekend based at the DOC camping area at the Holdsworth road end, 15km from Masterton. Its an opportunity to give camping a go if you're new to it. On the Saturday, we'll do a day trip to Sayers Hut, from the Mangaterere Road end. Lance is leading a Holdsworth explorer trip on the Sunday, or if you don't want to do this, there are easier walks to do from the camp area. Should still be good weather for swimming. If you don't have camping gear but would like to give this a go, it may be possible to borrow some tents etc. If you'd like to know more, give Janet a call.

**Mar 18 Holdsworth Explorer M
Lance Gray 356-6454**

Those of us departing from Palmerston North on Sunday morning will look to get away early around 7am to meet those at the road-end sometime around 8.30am. The route proper begins on the true left of the Atiwhakatu to a point opposite Donnelly Flats before climbing to Pinnacle 877. Depending on how we go we could look to follow Pinnacle Ridge (it is actually very gentle) along to where it meets the track following the Atiwhakatu River. The travel is off-route but nothing too strenuous.

**Mar 24-25 Dundas Hut M/F
Graham Peters 329-4722**

A true wilderness experience in the Northern Tararuas. I read recently where Shaun Barnett and friend had great difficulty finding the hut coming up from the Ruamahunga River. You just slide on your bum down the track and you can't miss it! Plenty of challenge here for any trumper coming from any direction. Contact Graham for your fix now.

**Mar 25 Roaring Stag M
Warren Wheeler 356-1998**

For those of you who like to tramp in style then Roaring Stag is for you. Plenty of interesting side trips to make for a great day out. These include a visit to the not so hidden lake. A particular favourite is the stroll up the beautiful Ruapae Stream. For the adventurous you can always go off track to reach the road-end.

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), Maret 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 Maret Wilson (329 4722)

NOTICES

Housewarming 24 March 48 Savage Cres

Members are welcome to join Anja and I at our new home for a Pot Luck BBQ starting around 4pm. Plenty of room for the kids as we have our own park!

Pre Easter Kahurangi 31 March – 5 April

This trip begins on Sat 31st March when we will catch the ferry to Picton and drive through to the road end. It ends in time for people to join in on Terry's Easter trip to Nelson Lakes. I was intending to plan this trip around those who were coming along, but it will be graded M to M/F and will involve above the bushline and off track travel. Come and visit some of my favourite places. Let me know if you want to come asap. Janet Wilson 329-4722

Nelson Lakes tramping and climbing. 5-11th April M/F, some T

The plan at this stage is to base ourselves initially at Cupola Basin Hut, which is off the Travers Valley, with climbing possibilities being Cupola (straight forward) and/or Hopeless (some technical rope work required). Then possibly cross over into Summit Ck for an attempt on Travers. Other variations exist.

This trip will following directly after the Club's pre-Easter Kahurangi tramp (leader; Janet), and will start at St Arnaud on the evening of Thurs 5th or

crack-of-dawn on Good Friday. So unless you are going on the Kahurangi trip (I am with vehicle) you will need to get yourself to St Arnaud for that start time (or poss Nelson Airport Thurs afternoon). Transport is available back to PN on Wednesday 11th. Contact me for details, before rushing off and making any bookings. Terry Crippen 3563-588.

FMC Executive Meeting in PN 10-11 March

FMC values the opportunity to meet club members on their home turf to better appreciate local perspectives and issues, and wider views on national issues. PNTMC is hosting this Executive meeting and we invite you to take the opportunities offered by the occasion.

- The FMC meeting on the Saturday is to be held in the Seminar Room at Te Manawa.
- 2pm-4pm the meeting is open to club members to discuss any issues.
- Dinner is to be at the Fisherman's Table at 7.30pm - please contact Warren to help confirm numbers attending.
- Sunday is a trip to Rangi Hut. Depart 8.00am from Countdown. Contact Warren 356-1998.

AGM - 29 March Nominations

Please consider offering yourself (or someone else!) as a member of Committee.

Nominations should be made before the meeting starts. Forms will be available on the night, but you may like get in early and send in the form enclosed with this newsletter.

From the Presidents PC

*Life is complicated and not for the timid.
It's an experience that when it's done it will
take a while to get over it.*

Garrison Keillor

As we come to terms with the death of Meguru on Mt Cook we can't help but look for a bright side. I particularly like Peter Darragh's idea of her falling straight into the arms of fellow PNTMC climbers who died there over 25 years ago, and being very well looked after.

Meanwhile many of us were able to offer our condolences directly to Meguru's parents and brother when they visited PN after the funeral

in Timaru. An informal BBQ was held on Thursday 1 February, the night before they flew out. Those attending included her friends and workmates from AgResearch and Turitea Nursery.

The family were given a few keepsakes from PNTMC including a bound colour copy of the July-February newsletters and a rimu memorial plaque "In memory of - Meguru Inoue - Cherished member - PNTMC" with a shiny figure of 8 (ex-PNTMC gear) mounted on it. Other items from members included an 8x10 framed copy of the photo that accompanied the Manawatu Standard article on Saturday 27 January, and other photos of her on trips.

Thanks to Christine for hosting this, and to everyone who made it such a warm and caring occasion.

Note from Takasaki, Japan (received from Mark Lieffering)

Dear Takahashi-san, Thank you for your letter filled with your warm heart. Yes, we were in the agony for a while, but we decided to face up to our life again and want to make more steps for our future. Luckily, we could meet Meguru in New Zealand for three days. Then we can now send her to the heaven from our world. We never, never forget the kindness of the people of New Zealand, Mark, Helen, Tony, Terry, Mike, the members of the Mountaineering Club and AgResearch. We never forget them all. If you have a chance to meet them, please send our sincerely thanks to them. Yes, I do want to participate the race in New Zealand someday in the future.

Tadahito

Thank you for your letter, Takahashi-san. Meguru was a special hero for our family. "Meguru" means to go around the earth to be a lady who can make a peace on the world. We use the hiragana character for her name (not the kanji character) to be loved by everybody. She could spend her wonderful life in her own way. We are proud of it. Now we can understand her wonderful life, and we want to visit her 31 years again in our mind.

Kazuko



Beehive Creek Trampers

TRIP REPORTS

Atiwhakatu Hut & Beehive Creek,

Atiwhakatu Hut
4th Feb
By Barbara Maré

The morning dawned nice and clear despite the weather forecast. Warren, Malcolm, Neil and Barbara set off in the car for somewhere past Masterton... and got lost! After a pleasant detour to Mitre Flats roadend we found the start of the track to Atiwhakatu Hut at the Holdsworth carpark. It seemed like everyone and their dog was out camping on this glorious summer day, although there were not too many people on the track. Instead of taking the 'high road' to Mount Holdsworth, the Atiwhakatu track meanders along the river among the shady bush. Really it was the easiest track ever walked by PNTMC. There were a couple of slips along the way, which meant scooting up through

the bush on a small detour, but otherwise you could take your grandma on this one.

Warren kept us entertained the whole day with stories and jokes. We started off looking for stick insects after hearing Warren's fascinating description of their unusual morphology, but we didn't find any. We did find an assortment of bridges. Perhaps this track is a bridge beta site? There was an unusual aluminium bridge that looked like it had fallen off a passing UFO. At one point we passed a couple of fit looking hunters who pointed out the native mistletoe protected by a thick band of metal below to keep away the munching possums. It took just under 2 hours to reach the hut, which has an old metal exterior and a wooden panelled interior with many mysterious patches. After lunch it took even less time to return the way we had

come. We celebrated our successful foray into the wilds at Mount Bruce café on the way home. It was kaka feeding time at Mount Bruce and a whole flock rose into the air as we arrived. A nice end to a very pleasant day walk.

Beehive Creek Walkway
11 Feb.
By Doug Strachan

This trip began as it ended, with a microwave. Not far along the road from the carpark is a microwave oven letterbox. Seeing it reminded me of the TV programme "Myth Busters," an episode of which featured an experiment which showed that putting metal in a microwave oven does not cause it to blow up (although the appliance's life may be shortened, in which case you could always turn it into a letterbox).

We had about a 3km walk along the road, which took 40mins. This was followed by a grunt of about 15mins uphill. A couple of very smoky trail bikes went past, provoking comments about the 'clean' countryside air.

From the farmland hills we had good views of the Ruahines. At this point, we were reunited with Maho and Minami, whom I had dropped off at the bottom of the hill earlier to give them a headstart. The descent has some steep bits, and Maho, being 7mths pregnant, had to be careful. Had she fallen, she would have just kept on rolling, with the unborn Conan riding within like someone in one of those giant Zorb balls they have in Rotorua.

The edge of the farmland is about half-way, and here we reunited with Monica who had

walked up the stream with the dog, because the farmland is a no-go zone for dogs. We all made it without incident down to the stream. Our feet were cooled in the creek, which also had plenty of shady patches. The weather was simply perfect. Minami (16mths) delighted in splashing her way downstream, saying "more, more" the first time we went to put her back in the backpack carrier. At one point Warren found a gemstone in the stream and gave it to Minami. OK, so it was just a hunk of black lignite-like crumbly rock, but Minami appreciated it.

Total trip time was 2½ hrs. Malcolm and Duncan headed back to the city, while the rest of us went on a café crawl for laffernoon tea (lunch-afternoon tea). First we went to the Waterford. It was extremely busy because a band was playing there. Monica and Noel opted to leave for a swim at Raumai because there was no shady parking for the car and dog. The rest of us soon decided to avoid the crowds and moved on to the Herb Farm café. Unfortunately that was also crowded, so we headed for the Ashurst Domain... where there was a classic cars convention. However, the food here pales in comparison with that at the Herb Farm, so the queue wasn't too long. After scones and so on, we had a look at the cars on display. Then we parted company, and Warren showed Minami how to do a 'micro wave' goodbye, using just one finger. Thus, the trip ended as it began, with a microwave.

Beehive Bashers: Neil Campbell, Monica & Noel Cantwell (+ Saffron dog), Duncan Hedderley, Barbara Maré, Malcolm Parker, Margaret Riordan, Minami, Maho (+ Conan in womb) & Doug Strachan, Warren Wheeler.

Meguru Inoue - Obituary

Meguru came to New Zealand in May 2006 for a years working holiday. She had previously had a short holiday here two years ago and had friends in Palmerston North who she had worked with back in Japan at the Ministry of Agriculture. Meguru decided to base herself in Palmerston North. She had a background of tramping, climbing and skiing from Japan, doing winter trips to match any done by fellow club members here in New Zealand. She had climbed a number of northern Honshu peaks in winter and had climbed Mt Fuji in summer, but her aim was to do a winter ascent of Fuji in the near future.

I first met Meguru in July 2006 when she came on a day trip with the club to Herepai Hut in the Tararua Ranges. Soon after, she joined the club taking part in our snowcraft instruction programme with much enthusiasm and ability. One of Meguru's goals for her time in New Zealand was to climb Mt Cook with members of her Japanese mountaineering club. She therefore wanted to spend time and effort reaching the level of expertise needed for that goal. I believe she reached that level of expertise.

Meguru soon became a typical "New Zealand trumper", and was perhaps our most active club member while here with us. Most of her spare time she would be out in the hills; noteworthy trips including those to Howletts and Waterfall Hut here in the North Island and the Labour weekend trip to Kahurangi National Park. In between her tramping trips she would be running, as one of her other outdoor pastimes was mountain running. (She had planned to do the Kaweka challenge with her father.)

Up to her fateful ascent of Mt Cook, my spring and summer climbing was all with Meguru. For this I am extremely grateful. Here in the North Island, climbing weekends to Ruapehu were subjected to typically extremely adverse weather. Meguru relished these conditions and thoroughly enjoyed climbing on the Pinnacles.



In early December Meguru headed south for three months of tramping, climbing and exploring the South Island. Two of us spent an excellent time with Meguru in the Arthur's Pass area where a number of successful climbs were achieved. It was usually Meguru who would spur us on or who would be out front plugging a trail up though soft snow. Meguru especially enjoyed the climb of Mt Franklin, an impressive peak above the Deception Valley, "a good 15 hour day". Meguru then had a spell of tramping at Nelson Lakes before showing her mother, who was visiting New Zealand, parts of the South Island. In January, Meguru and I spent time in the Mt Cook area. At Tasman Saddle we brushed up on glacier travel and crevasse rescue techniques and climbed Aylmer, Hochstetter Dome and Annan. We then visited Anja who was hut warden at Mueller Hut. Following that she teamed up with her climbing friends from Japan.

Besides being a fellow trumper and climber, Meguru became a very close friend. Meguru would frequently call in at home; with new photos of her latest trips, to ask my advice on her plans or equipment, and on occasions to cook an excellent Japanese meal. While rapidly adapting to a New Zealand lifestyle, Meguru retained what I can only assume are traditional Japanese qualities. She was a very kind person, and was always positive in outlook and to all people. Everybody that met Meguru, be it through the club, in an alpine hut, or elsewhere, was impressed with these qualities and her personality.

Meguru can remain an inspiration to us, both for having achieved so much in the short time she was with us and for her all personal qualities. She is sadly missed.

Terry Crippen January 2007

In Memoriam

I first met Meguru at some club night last year, and then on a couple of tramps we were both on, and she was really keen, on tramping, and climbing which she was off for with Terry all the time. Then she was on a leadership course with Terry, John and me, and not only keen for the physical thing but had no fear to stand up and talk and present a task, though she laughingly confided to me that she still had a hard time understanding some of the people and some of what was being said. She always put her hand up and tried everything.

I was very impressed with her language improvements and how she was always happy and talked positively about her work, and her trips, but she did say once it rained a bit much in New Zealand, how she didn't mind the cold and wind, but always the rain, of course that had been our coldest wettest winter and spring for a while. She then she did all the climbing with Terry and Murray in Arthur's Pass, and Lance and I just missed them by a day there, but read of their exploits in the hut books, and DOC staff knew all about them there.

In January I was up at Mueller Hut hutwardening and she and Terry came up to visit for a night and she had a cold and insisted on sleeping in her tent on rocky ground rather than in the hut so not to pass the cold on, and then they left the next morning ditching their climbing plan because the weather had turned. On the Monday after I came down from Mueller Hut, and briefly saw her at the Alpine Club hut at Mt.Cook village and dashed over to say bye, and briefly met her newly arrived friends from Japan, and I said all the best with the weather and I'll keep my fingers crossed for the big climb. I then left for Palmy on Wednesday, and on Thursday Lance rings from work and says, Anja, better sit down, I'm afraid there's some bad news.

I wrote the following poem while up at Mueller Hut, and it conveys a bit my feelings about the surrounding mountains, maybe mountains in general, being big and awesome, but also sometimes too big, and aw(e)ful; and I would like to dedicate it to Meguru who was not afraid of the mountains.

High up at the point where the clouds hear your dreaming as thunder
Your thoughts magnified in the piercing blue clear mountain sky
Here seldom the mind strays to take in the people down under
Your gaze is turned upwards to peaks rising stagg'ringly high

Yet your eyes try in vain to find peace on a distant horizon
There are jagged black barbs and white spears searing into the blue
The sky it is torn by earth's violent struggle to rise on
And the clouds that are drifting above cannot soften the view

Here each whispered sound carries far across valleys and ridges
And is passed on by towering walls to their brothers aloft
And keeps travelling, needing no compass, no maps and no bridges
On the wings of an echo which carries the message so soft

Your eyes cannot mirror the vastness and splendour that's out there
Your ears cannot take in the messages wrought from the stone
Your soul it is awed but it feels that its homeplace is elsewhere
The exhilaration subsides and you know you're alone
By Anja Scholz

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