

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter - September 2007

Club Nights

Club nights are held at 7:45pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street. All welcome! Please sign the visitor's book at the door.

30 August

Club Night: Overseas trekking for Woman

Anne Young

Anne Young, a local girl, spends six months of the year taking trekking trips through the lush green valleys and passes of Nepal. You too could trek to the top of the highest mountain in Africa or go on a Serengeti safari. Come along to see and hear how you could immerse yourself in the local culture of Nepal and Africa. The talk is non technical so you don't have to be a Mountaineer to participate in any of these trips.

13 September

Club Night: Patagonia white-water rafting

Tony Gates

Tony Gates will talk about and show images of rafting the Futalafu and Manso Rivers, of Chile/Argentina. Earlier this year, Tony completed some white water sections as well as tranquil waters, all set in the magnificent Andes mountains. No rapids were as serious as Grade Five unfortunately, but many were similar to some New Zealand rivers. For a sneak preview, look at www.leatherwood.co.nz

18 September (Tuesday)

Interclub photo competition

7:30pm at the Manawatu Districts Aero Club, off Airport Drive (near the Control Tower).

For further details see notices in this newsletter.

20 September

Committee at Terry's

27 September

Club Night: Sumore Alps Norway

Warren Wheeler

Norway is not well visited by NZ trampers. However, Warren has been to Norway a number of times – and his pictures give a real flavour of the place. Come along and hear about, and see pics from, one of his recent trips.

Upcoming Trips

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trampler should be expected to do the trips in the following times:

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs

Medium (M): 5-6 hrs

Fit (F): about 8 hrs

Fitness Essential (FE): over 8 hrs

Other grades: Technical skills required (T) & Instructional (I)

Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Countdown car park. A charge for transport will be collected on the day. Leaders will give an estimate in advance.

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

Note to partners, parents or friends of members:

If a club trip is late returning, please do not worry unduly as there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone one of the Overdue Trip Contacts or Trip Coordinators:

Mick Leyland	358-3183	Terry Crippen	356-3588
Janet Wilson	329-4722	Warren Wheeler	356-1998

1-2 September

Climbing, Ruapehu

F, T

Terry Crippen

356-3588

As a follow up from Snowcraft 3, this is your chance to team up with a partner to do some climbing on Ruapehu. Leaving Friday afternoon we will base ourselves at Whangaehu Hut (NZAC) high on the eastern side of the mountain. Places are limited so you will need to confirm your interest with Terry ASAP.

1-2 September

1-2 or just Sat or Sun. Who wants to lead a trip somewhere; day or weekend, easy or medium? Let Terry 3563-588 or Janet know 329-4722.

8-9 September

Barlow Hut

Medium

Richard Lockett

323-0948

This trip has us following in the footsteps of William Colenso. The plan is to head up the Makaroro River

from the road end, then up Colenso Spur and along the tops to Te Atua-o-Mahuru. We will then retrace our steps back down the spur a wee way before turning off to Barlow Hut where we will spend the night. On Sunday, we will return along Makaroro River to the carpark. Leaving PN at 7.30am.

9 September

Atiwhakatu Hut Easy
Malcolm Parker 357-5203

Join Malcolm for a pleasant day trip up to Atiwhakatu Hut. Accessed from the Holdsworth road-end, near Masterton, this trip has no difficult hills and provides an opportunity for a pleasant day's walk. Phone Malcolm for departure time.

15-16 September

Syme Hut/Taranaki/Mt Egmont Medium
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

At about 1900m, adjacent to Fanthams Peak and Rangitoto Flat on the southern slopes of Taranaki/Mt Egmont, Syme Hut is an excellent objective for a weekend trip. You will be rewarded with panoramic views and spot-on sunrises and sunsets after the grunt up from the Dawson Falls Road end. If there is snow on the route up ice axe and crampons will be necessary. Contact Warren for departure time.

16 September

Tunupo Medium
Craig Allerby 323-7913

Depart 7.30am for a good climb to the highest point on the Ngamoko Range in the Western Ruahines. Hopefully we will get some good views of the Northern Ruahines and Ruapehu.

22-23 September

Ruahine Corner Fit
Derek Sharp 323-3028

This has got to be one of the most scenic Ruahine areas and cosiest huts with vast tussock flats, primeval kawaka forest, beech forest, leatherwood and spectacular erosion. Phone Derek to find out details of his plans for exploring the area.

21-23 September

Outdoor 1st Aid (NZMSC) Instruction
John Wallace 353-3616

Having a basic knowledge of first aid is a very useful skill for all of us. The NZ Mountain Safety Council runs First Aid courses that are specially related to tramping and other outdoor activities. These are certificated courses and are very informative and worthwhile. Starting Friday night; finishing Sunday afternoon. Cost is about \$100. The Club, at the committee's discretion, may subsidize some Club trip leaders to attend this or future ones. Contact John for details or visit www.mountainsafety.org.nz. (If going, please inform Janet or Terry as we are attempting to keep track of who has done such training.)

23 September

Mick's bush bash has been postponed as Mick will be overseas. Anyone wanting to lead a trip please, let Terry 3563-588 or Janet know 329-4722.

29-30 September

Totara Flats Easy
Tim Kannegieter 353-1965

Totara Flats Hut is one of the newer additions to the comfortable Tararua Huts on offer and Totara Flats is an easy weekend trip with plenty of things to look at should you choose to fossick around. Phone Tim for more details of his plans for the weekend trip.

30 September

Sayers Hut variation Medium/Fit
Graham Peters 329-4722

The plan is to go in via the track from the Mangaterere road end and out via a route from Totara Stream.

Labour weekend (18 – 23 October)

Nelson Lakes F/T
Terry Crippen 356-3588

Leaving Thursday 18 October and returning Tuesday 23 October. The plan is to base ourselves at Cupola Basin Hut in Nelson Lakes National Park where there will be good mixed snow and rock objectives of various grades. Contact Terry for further details.

Notices

Temporary change of editor

Tony Gates is standing in as editor for the next newsletter while Anne is away. Send articles by the 20th of September to Tony at kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz

Temporary change of treasurer

Terry Crippen is standing in as treasurer for the next month while Martin is away.

Private Tracks

Terry Crippen

Every now and then PNTMC gets information in the mail or otherwise on private tracks, ie those on farmland and other private property which are run as a commercial venture by the farmer or owner. While the Club doesn't promote any of these in particular, and typically Club trips use DoC land (ie OUR land) these private tracks may be of interest to club members, perhaps even for running a Club trip. Recently arrived information can be found on either the Club's bookcase or notice board at club night. There are often ones advertised in the FMC Bulletin and a good book that describes a lot of them is "Hidden Trails", first published as "Secrets Worth Sharing".

New Club member

Welcome to Michael Archer 027 6878 477

Quiz night coming up:

October 16 (Tuesday)

Interclub Quiz night

7:30pm at the Manawatu Districts Aero Club, off Airport Drive (near the Control Tower).

Interclub Photo Competition

The annual interclub photo competition is being held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18 September at the MTSC venue which is the Manawatu Districts Aero Club, off Airport Drive (near the Control Tower).

The categories are:

- **Alpine (NZ):**
Predominantly alpine scenery in NZ (ie above bushline)
- **Scenic (NZ):**
Pictorial interest in NZ hills etc (ie predominantly below the bushline)
- **Natural History (NZ):**
NZ flora and fauna or detail, eg geology, ice formations etc)
- **Topical (NZ):**
People or detail related to tramping, climbing, skiing, etc. activities in NZ
- **Overseas: Open**
E.g. Overseas alpine or scenic; People met while tramping or climbing overseas

Entries for the interclub competition are limited to the best three pictures in each category, from each club. Entries shall not have been entered in a previous Interclub Competition.

All entries will be projected via digital projector, so the Club will send in the top three digital place getters in each category. Contact Terry for further details.

Trip Reports

Purity Hut

28 July

Report by Duncan Hedderley

This trip got off to a rocky start; Peter Darragh had to work that weekend, so wasn't able to lead it; he asked Warren to, but Warren came down with a cold and asked me if I'd take it on; and by the time I phoned the two others who had expressed an interest, one had decided that because no-one had called back, the trip must be off, and had made other plans. However, the weather forecast looked fair, so Murray and I decided it was worth the drive (an hour and a half, up SH1 to Mangaweka then east along Kawhatau Valley Road) Although DoC have put a nice new hut in at Purity, the most memorable bit of the route is still the same - the first 30-40 minutes is across farmland, and you gain a thigh-aching amount of height in that time.

Once in the forest park the gradient eases and you climb through lush bush, through stunted bush, past the old hut site, and just above it on the tussock is the new hut. It is a tidy little six-bunker, ominously secured by wire ropes. On a clear day the view must be good, but we were peering through mist. We had lunch and put on extra layers - there wasn't much wind but it was noticeably colder - then explored a bit beyond the hut. We soon came across patches of snow, but the mist didn't clear, so after half an hour we turned around and headed back down. Murray did a bit of botanising - though he may not know as much as he'd like about it, he sure knows more than I do.

We got back to the car about 3.30, and Murray suggested we check out DOC's Kawhatau Base and the cableway access to McKinnon hut. They are right at the end of the valley, over even more unsealed road (Murray was OK with this - he'd once had a job inspecting bridges in the area), and beyond a farm gate with a notice saying get permission to cross, a sign-in book, and a dozen dogs in a run nearby. We had a look then headed back to PN, getting back just after dark

We were Murray Gifford and Duncan Hedderley

Mt Holdsworth

29 July

Report by Chris Tuffley

Photo by Tony Gates

The radio weighed in first, then Tony. "Gisborne to Wairarapa, Taranaki to Wellington: rain spreading from the north." "The forecast's crap but we're going anyway. Bring your ice axe; if it looks like there's not much snow we'll leave them in the car." Murray seemed as doubtful as I about the weather, but Tony was optimistic, and we took the Pahiatua track over the hill, then drove south, south, south past Masterton to Holdsworth Lodge.

The tops looked bare of snow, so two axes were left behind in the car, while the third got to come for a ride just in case. Taking the Gentle Annie track we went up up up through beautiful beech forest, "Taranaki tears" dripping from our bodies as we laboured up towards the lowering sky. A quick lunch at Powell Hut, then onward and upward, past occasional patches of snow - never enough to get the ice axe out and make it earn its passage - to Holdsworth. From the summit the world to the west lay before us: Kapiti Island, the main Taranaki range, and the South Island. We savoured the view, snacked, and played "spot the hut" (Tony knowledgeably locating several) then continued north along the range.

Taking the first right we descended the steep East Holdsworth track towards the Atiwhakatu River. As we neared the river the rain arrived at last. A light drizzle came down through the trees: light enough that we didn't bother with our jackets, but heavy

enough that by the time we reached the car I wished I had. Not to worry, the Holdsworth Lodge caretakers were friends of Tony's, and a hot drink and a biccie in their warm living room soon set us right for the drive home.



We were Murray Gifford, Tony Gates, and Chris Tuffley.

Kapakapanui

15 July

Report by Anja Scholz

Photos by Martin Lawrence

Five of us crawled out of bed and into a frosty but promising morning, making our way to the start of the track by about 9 am. There was still a fair bit of frost on the ground, and no one was keen to get their feet wet on the initial creek crossings. Thus those with lighter footwear caught piggy back rides across with Martin and Warren, and I had brought a pair of teva sandals to wear until the crossings were completed. I hid those after the third crossing to be picked up on the way back, and donned my tramping boots – only to find shortly after that I had forgotten about the fourth crossing – d’uh ! – so got slightly damp feet after all. It also took a while to defrost my toes which had certainly been frost nipped in the morning grass.

Hooray! The ascent to the magnificent views had not flattened since the last trip, so we got our warming up underway quickly. Not having done much climbing lately my legs were getting a bit weary near the tops, but it was worth it. We encountered many of the mud puddles still partly frozen over (all the more treacherous, eh?), and for a while the path was strewn with a multitude of fallen icicles of all sizes – probably from the previous day when the sun had melted them from the branches and leaves.

The tops section gave us wonderful views over to the coast and Kapiti Island, and north to Taranaki and Ruapehu which were poking out from their misty lowlands. The Tararua ranges unfortunately were partly hidden under a fluffy cloud, so we had picked the right tops to be on that day. The lunch spot was sunny, if a bit breezy, and lunch sandwiches were complemented by yummy chips and dips leftovers from Anne and Martin's previous night's dinner party.



A second, shorter, lunch stop was held at the hut on the way down, and we ambled on downwards, eventually wondering about the rather slippery and rough parts of track which none of us could quite remember from previous trips. Coming out of the bush at the creek looked also somewhat different, but we ended up finishing the loop at the usual spot, and it was only a short stroll back – including crossing the creeks, as our feet were now wet anyway from muddy puddles – to the car. Here we had a chat with one of the locals who told us that the track had been rerouted sometime last summer, as one landowner didn't want trampers and others traipsing over his land anymore. Ah well, this new track just needs a bit of settling in and she'll be less slippery (hope so).

As it was still sunny and now a lot warmer in the lowlands, a stop at the “Real Fruit Ice Cream Shop” on the way brought the chill back to our bodies. Yumm, and while we all opted for the safety of fruity ice creams, Warren had to have a go at fruit plus hot pepper. Kinda figures.... he da man who brought us surstroemming....



We were: Janet Wilson (who kept us entertained in the car with tales of her and Graham's recent trip to Japan and Europe), Warren Wheeler, Anne (trip leader) and Martin Lawrence, and Anja Scholz.

Waiopahu Loop

4 August

Report by Doug Strachan

Torch, torch, a tiny sun
Janet took 2, and I had one
Stan was wise, or out of his tree
In his pack, he'd stowed three

Took off at half-past-eight
Toting packs a bit overweight
Balaclava and thermos packed
Not one thing that we lacked

Stan, Janet chin-wagging
Mountain races and hut-bagging
Stan seemed to be a man possessed
Heart monitor on chest

One man ran Death Valley
And found the heat took its tally
His shoes melted, a new design
Had to run the white line

Dundas, Levin in view
Waiopahu made its debut
Hut in five and three-quarter hours
Where were forecasted showers?

Rain began on way back
Down endless Waiopahu Track
Three hours to reach the conveyance
Waiting in abeyance

Doug Strachan trip leader
Stan MacKowiak Aussie bleeder
Janet Wilson keen as mustard
Next day weather custard

Makairo Track

5 August

Report by Fiona Donald

It was the morning of the tramp and there was the sound of lashing rain outside; about 7am, Duncan phoned to say he was feeling unwell and wouldn't be able to come. Later on, when I had collected Margaret and we were waiting for Ian at the Tui Brewery, the day had warmed up to some sunny patches and promised good weather. There was a slight hiccup where we waited for Ian to show up...he was as he said he would be - at the back of the Brewery. However, we were waiting in the car park on the side of the Brewery... I put it down to a momentary lapse in concentration where Ian was talking to me about the meeting place. Once that was sorted out, Ian got into my car and we all arrived in good time. (It takes an hour from PN to get to the start of this track). We wandered uphill commenting on various things like the delightful waterfalls and miniature creeks going across and along the track; as we got higher the north-easterlies got stronger and colder so by the time we got to the top we were buffeted from the blasts of air. We managed to find a sheltered spot for lunch and were thoroughly entertained by nature's spectacular flow of misty cloud pouring over a gap and driving rain...at no stage were we in danger of getting wet. Afterwards, we walked down and several times there were heavy showers of rain...what had been lovely waterfalls, on the way up, now cascaded across the track making it very muddy and lots of pools to skirt around. Finally we shot into the car as the rain was pouring down and were pleased to be heading back to PN.

We were Ian Harding, Margaret Riordan and Fiona Donald (leader, driver)



Snowcraft 2

3-5 August

Report and photos by Matt Penn

Fully expecting a foul weekend, an intrepid group of trainees set off to familiar ground at the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club Lodge on Whakapapa. Those with four wheel drive vehicles didn't give a second thought to the weather when we arrived at the Bruce loop, and we all set off into the dark for our now familiar mountain accommodation.

We had lots more fellow campers in the lodge when we arrived and finding somewhere to bunk down was no easy chore! There were a lot of small groups in the lodge, so we ended up wondering around dark rooms with people all ready tucked in for the night searching for bunks with no bodies! After finding a place to sleep for the night we had a chance to regroup when we had confirmed an early start to try and avoid the worst of the rapidly closing-in weather. With that good news we all headed off for a 5am start – something our room mates were really looking forward to...

The early morning start certainly gave us good chance to rehearse setting up our gear by torch light. Setting off in the dark, at least it wasn't long before we saw the first light of day, and we could start to make out familiar ground from our favourite haunt last trip.

Day one gave us a good opportunity to refresh skills learnt on Snow Craft One, and build on rope and abseil techniques for an alpine environment. The ever present threat of skiers and snow boarders hadn't faded since SC1, although as the weather came in they slowly headed indoors leaving us to our own devices; although we did almost garot two snow boarders who came over the hill, fortunately just after we'd pulled our ropes in.

Plenty of work on snow stakes, snow pickets, and cutting 'T' slots for anchors gives you a hunger and we polished off lunch in no time to head back out for more detailed training on rope work and alpine abseiling – coming down certainly makes up for all the T-slots dug and rope played out! All the activity had given us plenty to think about other than the inclement weather, but we were finally

ready to head in so we set off for the lodge. Our early start gave us an opportunity to cover more rope skills and alpine skills.

Fortunately, for the second day, the weather forecast meant that we didn't need an early start and could sleep in; we even had tea brought to our bunks before breakfast by Nela! A great way to start the day. This did mean that we needed to be prepared for pretty ordinary weather when we set out, fully roped up for glacier travel. The morning forecast had indicated that the lower mountain had visibility of 100-500m and 100-200m on the upper mountain and that seemed to be the best we got with it periodically closing in even more.

Others before us had found a way to get around the weather, and had put good effort into creating an igloo in the valley we were training in. We explored this and the difference in the environment, even with a door open to the elements was massive. It was warmer and lighter, and getting out of the wind was great! There was plenty of room inside, and the sleeping ledge was well placed higher than the door to keep the breeze off your feet at night...

We advanced on our lessons of day one and moved onto belaying with the full 50m of rope and locating good spots for anchors before we ran out of rope! Heading back to the lodge for a dry spot to break for lunch, it occurred to those of us without four wheel drive vehicles that the weather wasn't really improving, and perhaps the lack of snow chains may become an issue... A brief respite at the lodge for a nice warm place to lunch and prepare for our departure was just what we needed after a morning out in pretty average weather and gave us good chance to re-energise, complete our lodge chores and prepare to head back home.

Arriving at the car park, of vehicles looked like they'd been in a blast freezer for a month rather than out overnight for two nights! Looking around there also weren't that many cars making their way down the mountain, and even less without snow chains! We headed off cautiously, but more importantly as smoothly as we possibly could; especially on slopes and before corners. We did manage to get some excitement where we had nearly a 300m slide on the ice before regaining control; much to the delight of the ski field team in the ute behind us! – but there were those who were less fortunate and had not managed to miss the armco barrier at what looked like reasonable speed.

A great weekend and lots of fun had by all. Many thanks to our tutors and bring on Egmont!



We were Bruce van Brunt, Terry Crippen, Peter Darragh, Mike Archer, Anthony Eyles, Shintaro (Shin) Fukuhara, Murray Gifford, Nela Kordich, Matthew Penn, Yuki Sakai, and Tadatsugi Yakota

Wellington “City to Sea”

11 August

Report by Martin Lawrence

We started in the heart of the city, near the Beehive. The Wellington gale was so bad it was difficult to wear a hat, so it was lucky that we weren't doing the Skyline Walkway on this day. The beginning of this marked walk is off Bolton St and officially starts in the old cemetery with its graves of early settlers. The cemetery has been bisected by a motorway which we crossed over to the Botanic gardens on a decent walking bridge.

We meandered through the gardens to the Cable Car Station above, which is a decent climb so we were warmed up nicely. After passing through an open cable car carriage we then headed down to Kelburn Park, past the University and Te Aro School, down to Te Aro valley then up the other side past the Tenera Community Gardens.

The walk meanders in order to see a number of parks, green areas and places of historic interest. Next on the agenda was Central Park, the council's Berhampore Nursery and the Berhampore Golf Course. The markers then lead us up on a steep muddy track through logged pines to a decent height. The wind became even fresher and we were hit by a squall of rain. We could see our destination, Island Bay, but there was no chance of the promised views to the Kaikouras or back to the Tararuas.

To the right was a Maori sculpture looking south. We headed down to streets again and on to the beach at Island Bay. We had done 12km of walking by now and were quite wet, so since there was an empty bus about to leave for the city we all climbed on, shook ourselves dry and were taken back to the central city.

I would recommend this walk to anybody as you could easily do the whole thing or select a smaller chunk. I found information on Wellington walks at <http://www.feelinggreat.co.nz/walking/walking-tracks-and-walk-ways> .

Four of us made the trip to Wellington – Janet, Graham, Anne and myself.

Burn Hut

19 August

Report by Tony Gates

Photos by Tony Gates and Martin Lawrence

David Grant gathered Graham Peters, Janet Wilson, Peter van Essen, Tony Gates, Anne, and Martin Lawrence together one pleasant winter's day for a good day stroll to the northern Tararuas. Burn Hut was the destination, a tidy hut located some two and a half hours in from the road end, with good views of much of the Mangahao catchment. It's about half way around a reasonable circuit track. I guess we were lucky with the weather, soaking up some sunshine for the first bit, a little mist and hail in the middle, then back out into the sunshine.

The track from the middle dam follows the banks of the Mangahao River down valley, winding over some pretty steep bits. The river is a shadow of its former self, having lost most of its water to hydro electricity.

We sweated a bit up the short, steep section, and were soon marvelling in the views. A reasonable track. We lunched at Burn Hut, then watched with some dismay the clag rolling in. Luckily it didn't last, as we pressed on along the sometimes vaguely marked track south College Creek and the top Mangahao dam. Once off the tops, we descended rapidly to College creek. Easy, if slightly wet, travel soon saw us at Baber Forks, with the top dam, hence the road end, in sight. For the last bit at the end, Janet, Anne, and Martin ran some of the road under the beech trees.

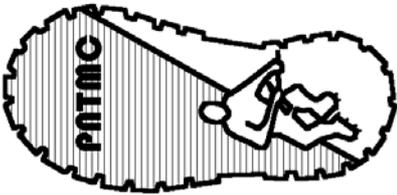
<p>Note for those interested in the botany of the area: Maybe 80 kilometres of the main divide, from the Tamaki River to the Mangahao dams, lacks beech forest. Outside these limits, pockets of beech trees begin to creep into the podocarp forested landscape, until the near continuous stands in the upper Mangahao/ Ruamahanga (south), and upper Pohangina (north). We noted two small patches of beech trees, each maybe half a hectare in size, as we descended College Creek, and some at the top car park. Continuous beech forest doesn't start until the Mangahao River proper, at and up from the top dam.</p>
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Photo at top of next page by Martin Lawrence: Dave, Graham and Peter heading up the ridge toward Burn Hut

Photo at bottom of next page by Tony Gates: Anne, Martin, Janet and Graham heading downstream on the way back to the dam.



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PNTMC Newsletter September 2007

What's Inside:

- Upcoming trips and other club events
- Reports on recent trips
- Winning photos from the recent Club Competition

Get out and about with us!
www.pntmc.org.nz

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