

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter July 2009

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, Palmerston North. All welcome! Please sign the visitor's book at the door.

9 July Club night
Fox Glacier Climbing with Bruce Van Brunt and Alasdair Noble

In February 2009, PNTMC Snowcraft Instructors spent some time in the South Island sponsored by a grant and some money from the club. This club night gives you the opportunity to hear how they spent this money on luxury accommodation at a spa resort, gourmet food and lots of alcohol. There may even be the odd photo of a mountain.

27 July Committee
Meet at Dave Grant's place

30 July Club night
To feed a Kakapo: two weeks as "feedout-vollie" on Codfish Island with Anja Scholz

In February 2009, Anja Scholz spent two weeks as a Kakapo "feed-out volunteer" on Codfish Island (Whenuahou). While the work basically involved lugging heavy packs over rocks and roots and through the mud uphill and down, the location was hard to beat and the work was made very exciting by this being the best Kakapo breeding season since intensive monitoring of the endangered species began. Eggs were being laid left, right and centre; even more exciting was that the first chicks hatched while Anja was there. Come along prepared for some avian antics!

Departure point for club trips

A reminder that we have changed our departure point for trips. Trips now leave from Milverton Park unless the Trip leader decides otherwise. The suggested meeting place is on the Ferguson Street side of the park where there is some shelter. There are plenty of parking spaces on both Ferguson St and Victoria Ave. There are no time restrictions and no charge for parking.

Upcoming Trips

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trumper 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 (T) Instructional (I)

Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Milverton Park. A charge for transport will be collected on the day.

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

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:

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

4-5 July
Castlepoint Explorer E
Jennifer Kitchen 323 6694

This is an opportunity for club members to enjoy a relaxed weekend at the Kitchen family's bach. There is plenty to do so this trip should appeal to a wide range of club members. This is the only club trip on this weekend. No day trip is being offered as we think this trip will cater for all.

11 July (Saturday) M
Manawatu Gorge Track
Gina Fermor 359 0096

Come along and check out all the improvements that have been made to the track.
NB Gina's phone number was incorrect in last newsletter

11 – 12 July E or M
Sunrise or Top Maropea
Peter Wiles 358 6894
Will leave 8am for Sunrise. If the weather is good leaves lots of time to look around. Sunday may further look around, or gradually trot home.

16 July (Thurs)
Applications for Snowcraft close. See notices.

18 – 19 July M
Kelly Knight
Llew Prichard 358 2217
Contact Llew directly for more information on this trip.

19 July
Roaring Stag M
Anja Scholz 356 6454
For a good longish low level winter work-out tramp with lunch (how's that for alliteration) at near new Roaring Stag Hut in the Eastern Taranaki. Meet at Milverton Park at 7:30am. Expect MUD.

25-26 July
Ketatahi explorer M,T
Warren Wheeler 356 1998
Depart 7.00am. Ketatahi Hut is high on the north slopes of Mt Tongariro, just past the steaming Ketatahi Hot Springs area. Being the off-season for the Northern Circuit Great Walk there will be no gas heating but the deck faces north into the sun with grand views to Lake Taupo. After stopping at the hut for lunch the A-plan is to traverse around to the steaming Te Mari craters and a climb up to Te Mari Peak overlooking frozen Blue Lake. Next days Plan is to climb up to North Crater for an Inverse Traverse of the Pothole Crater, carry on to Mt Tongariro and return across Central Crater or circuit around to Red Crater, Emerald Lakes and across the frozen Blue Lake. Some experience with crampons and ice axe is desirable.

26 July
Kahuterawa explorer M
Dave Grant 357 8269
Kahuterawa – nice and handy to town - been there done that. BUT - there are more tracks in the Kahuterawa than to the Platinum Mines and Toi Toi loop. Join me on an exploration of the hunters track that takes us up to the Marima ridge, looping behind Toi Toi flat. Leave Milverton Park 8.00am

28 July (Tues)
Snowcraft 1 evening for participants.
See notices for details.

1-2 August
Snowcraft 1 weekend
See notices.

1 August (Saturday)
Takapari Rd Mountain Bike/Walk M
Graham Peters 329 4722
Takapari Rd could be a walker's white winter wonderland or muddy mountain-bikers morass, depending on the weather conditions. Which, will be decided closer to the time. Leaving Palmerston North 8.30am.

2 August
Ellis Hut E
Peter Wiles 358 6894
The plan is to leave PN at 8.30 am. It is the easiest of walks along an almost flat track through bush for about 2 hours. The hut is one of the oldest structures of its type still standing (and able to be used) dating from the 1880s. The only catch is that the Maropea River has to be forded at the start beside the carpark, which is at the northern end of Whakarara Road. I would suggest bringing gumboots for the river and then change to walking boots. (One set of gumboots may be shared around if they can be successfully chucked across the river. Taihape gumboot throwing skills would be an asset.) An additional option is that the track can be very easily done on a mountain bike.

Articles for the newsletter
Send by the 20th of each month to Anne Lawrence, the newsletter editor, via the club website: <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>.

Notices

Snowcraft Programme 2009- Final notice

The Club's snowcraft programme has two aims: Firstly, to equip you with the necessary skills for safe tramping in snow, be it on winter trips, or summer trips above the snowline. Secondly, to pass on the fundamental skills of mountaineering.

The programme consists of three weekends up Ruapehu or Egmont, and a Tuesday session prior to each weekend. A progressive approach is used, with Snowcraft 1 assuming little or no previous snow experience and SC 2 and 3 building on the previous levels. Most participants enrol in the complete programme, while others just in one or two of the weekends depending on their previous experience or ambitions. Numbers are limited, so enrol now to confirm a place.

SC1 evening Tuesday 28 July.
SC1 weekend 1-2 August

SC2 evening Tuesday 11 August.
SC2 Weekend 15-16 August

SC3 evening Tuesday 25 August.
 SC3 weekend 29-30 August



Fees cover weeknight venues, transport, weekend accommodation, most food, group gear hire, and instruction. Individual gear hire, if needed, is an additional cost for non Club members.

	SC1	SC2	SC3	One off payment
Member	\$130	\$145	\$135	\$395
Non-member	\$135	\$150	\$140	\$410

Applications (with registration form and fees) close Thursday 16th July. For further information & registration form, pick up one at Club night, or visit the Snowcraft link on the Club web site, or contact
 Terry Crippen 356 3588
 Bruce van Brunt 328 4761
 Alasdair Noble 356 1094

Web news

From Peter Wiles

The Club's website can now be used to send email with attachments. For security reasons there are some limitations. Files must be less than 5MB and have a file type selected from - doc, pdf, jpeg, jpg, tif, bmp, gif or png. This prevents users trying to attach files such as zip, exe and other types that might have potential to inflict harm.

If the sender just wants to send a message without an attachment, the recipient will find a default txt file attached but with no contents. (There is no need to worry.)

Security is a major problem with forms on the internet. Security measures on the mail sending form

also include the so called "Captcha" algorithm which aims to prevent web robots from remotely and automatically actuating web forms. (Users have to transcribe the distorted characters in the graphic to the required form window, which is checked for a match when the form is processed.)

Addressees' addresses are also out of reach of web trawling tools by being located in a database. The sender's message content is also filtered to remove suspect characters that might allow hackers access such as by placing Javascript code in place of the message or subject line. The recipient will find * in place of any deleted characters and a warning that substitutions have been made.

The sender's address is also validated and rejected if suspect. If you have ever wondered how to verify an email address, it must (fail to) comply with this piece of screening code -

```
if (preg_match('/^[a-zA-Z][\w\.-]*[a-zA-Z0-9]@[a-zA-Z0-9][\w\.-]*[a-zA-Z0-9].[a-zA-Z][a-zA-Z\.]*[a-zA-Z]$/',$from_email)==0). In other words, if this condition returns as True, the address contains unacceptable characters and is rejected.
```

It's tricky stuff, but it works and no, I did not write it! (Credit goes to the anonymous coders for the Captcha program and the attachment program as well as the creator of the regular expression for mail address validation – all free stuff on the Net.)

The FMC AGM

Report: Tony Gates

On 20 June 2009, I attended the 78th AGM of the Federated Mountain Clubs in Wellington. PNTMC retains affiliation with this organisation to support a national organisation of like minded clubs, and to receive its' support and membership benefits. The AGM was expertly chaired by President Rob Mitchell.

Guest speaker Tim Groser, Minister of Conservation, presented his speech as a whole of Government view, with some comments from Prime Minister John Key. He is relatively new to his role so appreciates the good work of the Director General and his staff. The so named "Conservation Economy" was noted to be deeply embedded with the New Zealand's economy-but not always fully linked. The Conservation Estate is seen as a backbone to the New Zealand economy, with DoC managing many crucial issues, such as; water (fresh and coastal), intrinsic and iconic values and species, tourism, and of course much of our own recreational interest.

Public education is seen as crucial. With an annual budget of some 400 million dollars, DoC manages 30 percent of New Zealand's land (plus coastal waters), so is instrumental in attracting the 2.4 million (mostly foreign) tourists annually. As an example, over half a

million of these people visit Milford Sound each year, and many other areas in the DoC estate have similar visitor numbers. The Minister did mention the Tararua's, but not with these statistics in mind- he had done a few multi day tramps there as a youth. Perhaps we can one day have the pleasure of showing the Minister of Conservation our beloved Tararua's, or even Ruahines.

Accounts, some minor constitutional amendments, and election of officers were carried out, then three discussion workshops on The Bulletin, Conservation, and Youth strategies. We will most likely read about some of these in the popular FMC member Newsletter.

Trip card for July- December 2009

Enclosed with this newsletter is the PNTMC trip card for the second half of this year. Thanks to Terry and Janet for all their work in getting together another exciting trip card. Thanks also to club members who have put their names down for trips.

PNTMC Members list for 2009

Enclosed with this newsletter is a printout of current PNTMC members. Thanks to everyone for paying subscriptions promptly.

Trip Reports

No 1 Line

26 April

Report and photo: Richard Lockett

A good muster of seven keen trampers assembled for this trip possibly believing that they were in for an easy day out and about.

The track from the road end leads steeply upwards always more so than ones memory, which is probably just as well as one might tend to stay at home. With Jennifer leading good progress was made stops being made to catch ones breath at various lookout points which afforded good views over the Manawatu. The track levels out at the top or the end of the track proper but you can keep going along the ridge for a bit before the trail drops down slightly into a saddle where the trail becomes somewhat indistinct.

Janet found a freshly discarded banana skin and as there were five SAR volunteers on this trip discussion on how old it was and who dropped it followed. It is at this point that we drop over the side picking up a small water course in a gut and dropping steeply down, a new experience for Jennifer, possibly for Kathy too, good old Ruahine bush bash. A tricky final drop into a side creek of the Matanganui stream saw us in good spirits if not somewhat scratched and muddy. Good travel was afforded down this creek to the confluence with the Matanganui and it was

decided to lunch at a fork further downstream in the Matanganui itself, as it transpired a somewhat chilly spot and with the water cascading over the boulders not the quietest of locations.

Onwards down stream towards the narrow gorge and waterfall, crisscrossing the stream, in it and up the bank always looking for the easiest route. Somewhere along here Anne aggravated a knee injury but after the taking of a voltarin you wouldn't have noticed with her pace in the stream. Upon reaching the gorge an easy route up to the notch on the known route around this obstacle looked to be on offer. Once we started the climb up this route it turned out to be a rock slide which is exactly what it started doing making the going decidedly uncomfortable for some in the team. Warren scouted ahead and decided it was a no goer for getting across to the notch, so it was back down carefully one at a time to avoid rocks hitting anyone.

Then we were back into the trees and scrub for a not very obvious but a direct bush bash up to the notch and to our relief the ropes were still in position and usable for the drop down the other side. The drop back down to the stream was a lot steeper than I remember - more scratches and muddy bottoms. From the top of the notch you could see the farm land not that far away, but, back in the stream, it seemed to take forever to get through that last stretch downstream to the track back up to the carpark; we must have been getting tired.

The round trip of six and a half hours was a good day's work. The stop at the Waterford for coffee, beer and hot chips felt like a fair reward.



We were Jennifer Kitchen, Anne Lawrence, Janet Wilson, Kathy Corner, Martin Lawrence, Warren Wheeler and Richard Lockett.

Queens Birthday Weekend Mistletoe Bay

29 May – 1 June

Report and pics: **Martin Lawrence**

This was the latest in a series of Janet's classic Queens Birthday weekend trips. Would the 9 of us have a great time? Would the weather stay fine as it has for most (all?) of these trips? Would the food last out? The answers are yes, yes (mostly) and yes again though I for one over-indulged a couple of times.

Anne and I had an interesting discussion in Picton when we found that one or both of us had left a very useful bag of food back in the car in Wellington. Never mind, as Anne joined Terry and Graham in Terry's vehicle for the long and windy route, now via a grocery store. I joined Janet, Richard, Warren, Mick and Marion for a very pleasant putter in the vintage launch piloted by Chris, the manager of the Mistletoe Bay campsite.

As a group of cheerful school children left we made ourselves comfortable in a couple of cabins. It looked like being a frosty night but no matter as all the accommodation was still quite new and was heated by heat pumps.

We got our bearings that afternoon by taking the track up the hill behind that camp which threaded through pretty decent bush to a viewpoint where we could see both Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds.

Some of us had brought mountain bikes over so on Saturday we headed South on a pretty reasonable track to Anakiwa. Warren also headed to Anakiwa on the water as Chris had offered us the use of a kayak.



Mick was gazing hopefully into the clear Sounds water so stayed behind with Marion and Terry to catch some fish off the end of the small peninsula. A chill wind hit us in Anakiwa when we stopped cycling so we had a quick lunch and headed back, having given Warren a royal wave as he headed back also. There was no fresh fish caught that day, which was

maybe just as well as we were extremely well catered for that night.

Sunday's weather wasn't too bad, though a bit cool, as we headed North to Portage, some on bikes via the road, some walking on the Queen Charlotte Walkway. It did get a bit cool on top and the walkers - Janet, Anne and I were convinced that we saw a couple of snowflakes drifting down. Anyway, we didn't loiter for long and soon met up with the cyclists in Portage who had already had a coffee but decided to join us again for lunch in the Portage Hotel by a blazing fire.



We all took the track back but the walkers made better time than the cyclists up the steep hill, so quickly became runner/walkers in the hope that we might beat the cyclists. We jogged on the 'down bits' half expecting that Graham or Richard would fly past at any moment, but managed to squeak home ahead of them.

We also had a couple of entertainments in the evening, viewing a decent amount of glow worms in the creek nearby, and a remarkably difficult toffee pop balancing challenge – well done Terry! And well done also Janet for a very pleasant winter weekend away.

We were Warren Wheeler, Terry Crippen, Richard Lockett, Graham Peters, Janet Wilson, Anne and Martin Lawrence.

Maharahara

7 June 09

Report: Murray Gifford

Pics: Tony Gates

The weather was bright and sunny in Palmerston, but the forecast was for cold south easterlies and snow showers coming in from the east.

An 8.30am start saw us at the Opawe Road end by 9.30, the tops shrouded in mist. The farmer came down the road on his tractor and stopped for a natter. Tony thanked him for the access to the track and traded a few deer hunting stories. The choppers were working the forest as venison is currently well priced. The hunting was better further north with the more open tops. One chopper had bagged 60 in the last two weeks.

The trail starts thru farmland, with a flat section thru well-hoofed bogs and then a short steep section to the bush edge, the trail marked with posts. The herd of cattle and flock of sheep seemed curious and watched us we disappeared into the bush. On the bush edge were the concrete remains of the old NZFS Opawe hut.



We passed a few grand old giants of the forest and then a real puffer section of steep trail up onto the ridge. A couple of small grassy slopes mark the top of this first section, a chance to stop, snack, and see the wide views to the west, Ruapehu to the north, the Pohangina valley below. The trail then heads more northeast and is well graded up thru the forest. We seem to disturb many a wood pigeon as they make that distinctive flutter to keep just out of view. There are few view points over this section and half an hour brings one out on the ridge with view of 3 knobs ahead and Maharahara still in the mist, the leatherwood track rising straight up the face to the top. Still some way to go, so a stop in the sun, a bite to eat and we got the woollies out for the tops. Light snow was on the leatherwood section and the cold winds made it really feel wintry.

The top was reached in just over 2 hours. Photos with the old Mt Maharahara sign post, 3610 feet or 1095m. The track continues to the east and Kiritaki hut and road end. The mist was swelling in from the east and no views that way, the views to the west also gone. A short stop and we headed back to the sun and snow showers lower down and a stop for lunch. Back to the car in under two hours. A good stretch and airing of the lungs.

We were Tony Gates, Duncan Hedderley and Murray Gifford.

Easy stroll to Coppermine Creek

14 June 2009

Report: Tony Gates

The dismal Ruahine winter weather eased to sometimes nice and sunny periods for us, and it was even a bit warm in the sheltered bits. Sure, the tops were clagged out as forecast, right down to (and below) the impenetrable Coppermine Creek leatherwood, but we were mostly in the clear. And the big bush of Coppermine Creek sheltered us well from the wind.

Near the car park, we spend some time botanising along the track. Numerous fruiting bodies of the delicate coral fungus *Ramariopsis antillarum* were admired. This species is also known as "earth tongue", with pure white fleshy sticks about 2 mm in diameter and up to 200 mm long emerging from the damp earth. *Mycena austroridida*, another delicate white gill fungus, was also noted, and another bright yellow but un named species. We were unable to re discover the similarly brightly coloured slugs that Warren had previously seen up here. Warren goes tramping to search for pretty slugs- yeah right.



Once over the stream, it was a stiff, if slippery climb on the track north. A few views out and about. We grabbed a quick thermos of hot chocolate at the track junction, then ambled back down to the farmland, and the much warmer weather. A pleasant 3 hour circuit giving us a brief taste of the Ruahines.



White fungus spotted on Coppermine Creek walk. Species is coral fungus, or earth tongue *Ramariopsis antillarum*.

Day trampers were; Warren Wheeler, Anne Leinweber, Michael Hudson, Tony Gates, and leader Anja Scholz.

Of interest...

News from DoC

- The new Ruahine Park Map is two years away.
- New Atiwakatu hut now open - still only a Standard \$5 hut and it looks nice.



Prime time

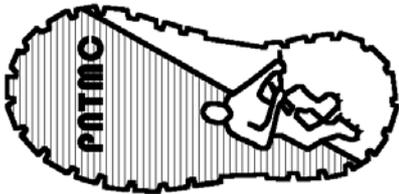
A TV Review

By Tony Gates

Prime TV recently presented a show of the dramatic events surrounding Lincoln Hall's ascent, near death, then successful descent of Mt Everest a few years ago. As one of Australia's most experienced high altitude mountaineers, Lincoln Hall has been involved with several Himalayan mountaineering expeditions, but previously, failed to gain the ultimate prize. After several other deaths on the mountain, Lincoln finally reached the summit. He collapsed, was pronounced dead, then was left in an icy grave by his Sherpas after they had made a momentous struggle to save him. He lacked oxygen, water, and shelter, but somehow, he got through the night. Early next morning, the following expedition was his saviour. They abandoned their own summit attempt to save Lincoln, bringing him back from the dead, and back to refute previous news reports of his death. The key to this very moving story was, in Lincoln's own words, that parts of his body shut down, but then somehow started up again.

The TV show had real expedition footage (including actual radio transmissions), studio interviews, and re enactments. It was these re enactments that compelled me to write this report- they were taken on mountains that should be familiar to many of us. Initially, I noted snow slopes that look like they could have been near any Southern Alps ski field (or probably any mountain in the world). The occasional distant mountain appeared, then obvious peaks from the Wanaka area. Several movie re enactments were taken in the Mt Aspiring area, with a mountain summit that looked very like that of Mt Aspiring.

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PNTMC Newsletter

July 2009

What's inside this month?

- *Upcoming trips and club events*
- *Reports on recent trips and events*

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

PNTMC Contacts

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President	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761
Vice President	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Secretary	Terry Crippen	356 3588
Treasurer	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
Webmaster	Peter Wiles	558 6894
Membership Enquires	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
	Penny Abercrombie	358 7007
Gear Custodian	Mick Leyland	358 3183
Newsletter Editor	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
Trip Co-ordinators	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Snowcraft Programme	Terry Crippen	356 3588