

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter July 2010

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.

8 July A Long Way to Top of Leary

Our guest speaker tonight is Malcolm Leary, who joined a PNTMC Snowcraft Course some years ago so he could climb Mt Cook. He hasn't made it yet, thanks to inclement weather at each attempt. However his last trip into the Southern Alps was a huge success. In late January he was one of a bunch of PNTMC climbers who enjoyed a week climbing in the high nevé area of the Fox and Franz Joseph Glaciers. From there they moved on to Queenstown and tackled Mt Earnslaw, a long day climbing made longer and even more enjoyable by a side trip to summit his humble namesake, Mt Leary.

22 July Committee Meeting

29 July I Spy Caddis Fly

Ian Henderson is an ecologist at Massey who will show how his tramping trips into the mountains have helped discover over 250 different species of caddis fly in streams around New Zealand.

12 August Club Photo Competition- refer notices.

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Tony Gates, the newsletter editor, at kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz, or via <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>

Upcoming Trips

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trumper should expect 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.

Gear for trips

Minimum gear for day trips is appropriate footwear, pack, lunch and snacks, waterproof jacket, overtrousers, gloves, warm hat, torch, toilet paper, matches or a lighter, sunblock, first aid kit, and a survival bag or space blanket. Each person needs to be equipped to survive overnight.

Trip leaders

Complete the trip intentions form and leave with one of Overdue Trip Contacts or drop into 44 Dahlia St. If you are unable to run your trip as scheduled, advise a trip coordinator as soon as possible so that alternatives can be arranged.

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 July

Te Araroa Walkway

Richard Lockett

E

323 0948

A pleasant day stroll on a section of the newly completed Te Araroa Walkway alongside the Rangitikei River, between Halcombe and Bulls.

5 July
Punga Hut **E/ M**
Tony Gates **357 7439**
Located in the northern Tararuas between Tokomaru and Eketahuna (off the end of Scotts Road), this rustic bush hut offers a good introduction to local bush tramping. This tramp is neither long nor strenuous. Depart 8.00am.

10- 11 July
Cow Creek Hut **M**
Janet Wilson **329 4722**
This cosy Tararua riverside hut is in from Masterton, with good tracks and bridges to allow a variety of possible routes to follow, depending on the weather, the team, and the vehicles.

11 July
K2- Mt Cook **E / M / T**
Warren Wheeler **356 1996**
Depart 6.00am. K2 before breakfast, Mt Cook by noon. Join us for another attempt on these two iconic "peaks" located near Bainesse. Full climbing gear and technical ropework will ensure our party safely reaches the summits and returns to our Base Camp that we will set up below the imposing south face of K2. There will also be free climbing solo attempts. The current record for climbing the south face of K2 (in crampons, without oxygen) is 30 seconds, while for the 58,000mm summit of Mt Cook is 45 seconds. One of our most challenging expeditions and a must-do for anyone going on Snowcraft.

15 July (Thurs)
Applications for Snowcraft 2010 close

17 July (Sat)
Herepai Hut **M**
Peter Darragh **353 0922**
This is a good good northern Tararua bushline hut about three hours tramp in from Eketahuna. The tussock tops are close by, so can be easily reached from behind Herepai Hut. Depart 9.00am, in time for lunch at the hut.

17- 18 July
Wellington Winter Walks **E/ M**
Anne Lawrence **357 1965**
Depart PN at 9am, and drive to Wellington. Once there we will spend the rest of the day exploring Zelandia: The Karori sanctuary. We will spend the night in town and the next day we will head to Miramar to complete a circular route based on the Eastern Walkway. Our route will follow the walkway along the southern end of Miramar Peninsula from the Pass of Branda via the Ataturk Monument to Tarakena Bay and out to Point Dorset, site of World War II gun batteries and observation posts, before heading back

along Breaker Bay Road to the vehicles. We should get back to PN late afternoon.

24 July (Sat)
Iron Gates Hut **M/ F**
Craig Allerby **323 7913**
We plan to follow the normal track past Heritage Lodge and into Iron Gates Hut for lunch, returning the same way. The track is a bit undulating, and there are two stream crossings. Depart Palmerston North 8.00am.

25 July
Moorcock Longview loop **M**
Dave Grant **357 8269**
This loop starts from the Kashmir road end west of OngaOnga. Following the track south to Awatere hut on the north branch of the Makaretu, we will climb up through the bush to Rocky Knob. We travel north past Longview and then take the route back down to the road end. A great variety of scenery and flora. Leave Milverton at 7.30am

28 July (Wed)
Snowcraft 1 evening, for participants only
Refer to notices

31 Jul- 1 Aug
Snowcraft 1 **I**
Alisdair Noble/ Bruce van Brunt **356 1094**
Refer to notices

31 Jul (Sat)
Branch Road Walkway (plus) **E/ M**
Janet Wilson **329 4722**
Branch Road walkway, which stretches from the Pohangina Village to Ridge Road, reopened last year after being closed since being badly damaged by the 2004 floods. Come along and see the changes and improvements made since then. In the afternoon we will visit another Pohangina gem, the Luttrell's White Pine Park and Museum, featuring an interesting museum of things from the past. Small entry fee. Departing Pohangina at 8.30am.

1 Aug
Yum Char Lunch **All**
Michael Allerby **323 8563**
Urban walks around Palmerston North, featuring sections of Te Araroa Walkway, and beside the Manawatu River. A stylish after tramp restaurant lunch.

Notices

Update on Trip Procedures

The committee has recently reviewed procedures for club trips. We have updated the guidelines for trip leaders (full version and tick box version). Samples of these, together with the MSC Intentions (Help) form and Trip Feedback form, are enclosed with this newsletter. All this material will soon be available for downloading from the club website. Extra copies are also available at club nights or by contacting Terry Crippen.

Intention forms are important, and are especially necessary if parties become overdue or an accident takes place. They should be filled in for all club trips but can also be used for non-club trips. For club trips, trip intentions can be left with one of Overdue Trip Contacts (Terry, Janet or Mick) or dropped into the letterbox at 44 Dahlia St which is conveniently close to Milverton Park the departure point for club trips.

Trips leaders please reacquaint yourselves with your responsibilities as club trip leaders by going through the guide for trip leaders. Club trip participants use this material to see what is expected of trip leaders and how trips should be run. This is in the interests of safety and pleasant and successful trips for all those involved. The club welcomes feedback on the success or otherwise of all its trips, so feel free to use the Trip Feedback forms.

Trip Card for July – December 2010

Enclosed with this newsletter is the latest trip card with trips for the next six months. Thanks to Terry and Janet for their diligence in getting this ready, and Warren for sorting future club nights. Also thanks to all who have put their names down to lead trips. Terry and Janet are organising an evening for trip leaders. Although particularly valuable for new trip leaders, this will also be useful for anyone leading a trip. We all need to be up to date with trip procedures including ways of minimising risk, and maximising enjoyment for all as well as the what to do if the unexpected does happen.

FMC Card 2010- 2011

Also enclosed for financial members is the latest FMC card. This is useful for some good discounts including 30% off Annual Hut Pass.

Snowcraft Programme Winter 2010

PNTMC runs a comprehensive snowcraft programme. It 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 midweek evening 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.

SC1 evening Wednesday 28 July.
SC1 weekend 31st July – 1st August

SC2 evening Wednesday 11 August.
SC2 Weekend 14th -15th August

SC3 evening Wednesday 25 August.
SC3 weekend 28th – 29th August

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

Pass the word round to friends you may think are interested. Open to Club members and members of the public. For further info & costs visit the Snowcraft link on the Club web site www.pntmc.org.nz or contact Terry Crippen 356-3588, or Alasdair Noble 356-1094.

Applications (with registration form and fees) close Thursday 15th July.

PNTMC Photo Competition 12 August

Rules

- Only digital images will be accepted.
- Entries must not have been entered previously - in the PNTMC Photo Competitions.
- Images must be related to tramping, trekking or climbing.
- The limit is 3 images per category, and each image must be clearly labelled with name and entry category.

Categories

Alpine NZ: alpine scenery in NZ
Scenic NZ: scenery below the bushline
Natural History: NZ flora or fauna;
Topical NZ: people shots on your trips
Overseas Alpine: overseas alpine scenery
Overseas People: climbers or people met while tramping or climbing overseas.

Deadline

All images must be submitted at least two weeks in advance. (This is so they can be given to the judge to study.) The images can be e-mailed to Martin at

martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com

Alternatively, a CD of the images can be given to Martin, again at least two weeks in advance.

Deadline is club night on 29 July.

Notes

Entries submitted less than two weeks prior to the competition or on the club night of the competition will not be accepted. It is anticipated that the winning images will be entered in the interclub photo competition. In addition, some of these images may be used to promote the competition and the club. Please indicate if you do not want your images used in these activities. The images remain the property of the photographers.

Trip Reports

Mangatainoka Hot Springs Report by Jennifer Kitchen

22-23 May

Warren and I started off at 8am with a long car ride up to the Te Puia Lodge car park. As we hit the gravel road I said to Warren this is a good road surface for a gravel road, I'm surprised there aren't big rocks - and then around the next corner they all started. We got to the car park just before lunch so got our gear together and set off down the track to find a nice spot for lunch.

As we walked and talked Warren was telling me about people rafting down the river. We found a nice spot for lunch and as we tucked into our sandwiches by the riverside around the corner a kayak and 2 rafts full of people come down the river. We finished our lunch and set off again finding a lot of interesting things on the way and Warren showed me a natural bridge just off the track made of pumice - it was so cool.

We got to the hut and had a look around and put our names in the book to tell people what we intended to do and where we were staying. As we started walking towards the hot spring Warren said to me now no pointing and laughing when we got to the hot spring as the German girl we met at the car park might be in her German swim suit going to cool off in the river. Sure enough we get to the hot springs, and there she is, stark. We let her be and went off to find a good camp site.

I had never fly camped before so Warren showed me how to make a good flat sleeping ground and put up the fly. After finishing setting

up we put on our swim suits and I jumped into the hot pools and crazy Warren went for a swim in the icy cold river and then jumped into the hot pools to defrost. I don't know why but I was thinking the hot springs would be just a mud hole in the ground but they aren't, they're pools with a pipe catching the running hot water off the bank. After cooking ourselves in the hot pool we did the good thing and cleaned them out after pulling the plug on the second pool, I said to Warren what is the bet someone will come and want the pool after a hard day.

Yep, 20mins later two families came with a load of kids wanting to use them. The first pool was ¼ full and the other empty but they didn't seem to mind. After having tea and getting everything packed up so that the mice didn't get into it over night we went off for a look around for wild life hoping to see Kiwis. We didn't find any but could hear the Moreporks in the trees and saw the Glowworms in the banks and a very cheeky Possum by the pools. We set off to bed at about 8pm and got woken at 4am to the lovely sound of a Kiwi.

We got up at 7am, packed up everything and set off to Te Puia lodge to see what everyone there was doing for the day. We decided to go the other way home via Makino Hut which was a good hour 15mins up to the hut and by then the weather was turning very cold. We ducked in to see the hut then set off and came across this old hut that we read about in Makino Hut so sat down and had lunch there. We made it to the road end in good time and then just had the walk down to the other car park to get the car.

Thanks Warren for taking me on the trip, I will remember for a very long time as it may take years to find one to beat the sound of that Kiwi at night.

Harris Creek and beyond Report and Photos by Dave Grant

30 May

It was a fine late autumn day as we started into the bush on the Mangahao valley track, full of good spirits at the thought of an enjoyable day in the hills. All seven of us had crammed into the Mazda to make the trip from Palmerston North, with some concern maybe for the comfort of Anne and Richard jammed into the dickie seats in the back. However the torturous road journey in from Shannon to the top Mangahao dam had been uneventful - but maybe the road was even rougher than usual? On the way in we had been greatly amused by the road works signs erected to warn of a big excavator working on a corner. At the Shannon end the sign read "Caution - Sprayer" and at the other end the sign read "Caution - Mower". With some hilarity we decided that excavator work on this road was so unusual that the driver used the only signs available. However, back to the tramp.



Lunch stop beside the Mangahao River.

After a steady 2 ½ hours walking we reached Harris Creek. Along the way we had taken a pleasant break in the sun by the swing bridge over the Mangahao River. Here Warren's sharp eyes spotted a rata still flowering. Further along some minutes were spent at the bluff where, a few years before, a person in a party Richard had been leading, injured themselves falling off the track. A sober reminder of the hazards that can lurk in the bush for the unwary.

Just past Harris Creek there is a clearing and a picnic table and we decided at this point we had achieved our objective of Harris creek and beyond. Eschewing the picnic table for the nearby Mangahao River bank as a lunch spot, we soaked up the sun and the views along the bouldery river bed bordered by narrow toitoi clad terraces and the steep beech clad hills behind.

After a suitable rest-up (and seeing it was still quite early - like about 12.30pm) we briefly debated returning via Island Ridge and Baber Creek. This idea received very little support compared to the alternative of getting home in reasonable time so we ambled back the way we had come and made for Palmerston North via the ice cream store in Shannon.

We were Anne and Martin Lawrence, Richard Lockett, Michael Allerby, Warren Wheeler, Dave Grant and Rene Van Oosten.

Queen's Birthday Coastal Classic 5-7 June Report and photo by Graham Peters

In a break from tradition, for the first time this trip organised by Janet did not go to the South Island. Instead we stayed at a seaside bach at Whatarangi on the eastern side of the Haurangi Forest Park. This location gave plenty of scope for the usual activities on these trips.

With the weather forecast suggesting that the weather on the Friday would be good but deteriorating as the weekend progressed, the decision was made to leave relatively early on the Friday morning giving the afternoon to do something.

With some leaving PN and some leaving Pohangina with a pickup north of Woodville, we all met on the road heading south from Woodville.



A large and well prepared group of Wairarapa cyclists.

As keen as we were to get to our destination a couple of stops on the way were in order. Firstly the supermarket at Carterton, then secondly at the Parkvale mushroom factory to stock up on trays of mushrooms (2nds at a very reasonable price) and as a bonus a quick tour of the facility organised on the spot by Ian with his inimitable ability to chat to anyone and find out their life history.

After arriving at 'The Chocolate Fish,' the name of the bach, sorting out the sleeping arrangements and having lunch, we set out for a walk to check out the Putangirua Pinnacles a few km back up the road. We had a fairly thorough investigation of them before climbing up to the lookout. Once there we decided we may as well carry on the loop track back to the DOC base at Te Kopi. This track hit a 4WD track that led into an area currently being logged. This caused some confusion as to which were logging and which was the way on. Some, well me really, thought logic was more reliable than a map and headed off down a well formed, steeply descending track. After quite a descent some who had looked at the map queried the route choice. There was some logic in their thought process, so we regained the lost altitude, much to Ian's dismay. As a bonus, as we came out into the clearer land we had good views across to the South Island and Tapuae-o-Uenuku in the snow clad Kaikoura Ranges.

As well as the expected facilities, our lodgings came with a large TV and DVD player so over our nights there we watched a range of DVDS, some quite good and others not quite so good - quite bad really.

Saturday looked likely to be the best day weather wise so was chosen to be the day for the mountain bike expedition beyond the Palliser lighthouse round the coast towards White Rock. As Ian and Warren were cycle less, they were privileged to be given the use of the yellow Avenger stationwagon and fishing rods for the day. This on 2 conditions - 1/ that they provided us with fish for dinner and 2/ that they didn't whinge about the Avenger.

Meanwhile, we cyclists unloaded the bikes at Ngawi and set out. The road to the lighthouse had been freshly metalled but the wind was fair so it wasn't too onerous. There were plenty of seals on the rocks for us to stop and have a look at and photograph. From the lighthouse the going became more interesting with some large puddles and nadgery rocky bits. We stopped at Stonewall Stream for morning tea and a look at the waterfalls. This reasonable sized stream was quite challenging to cycle across. The large

gravel slide just before Ngapotiki Hut had all of us pushing our bikes. At the hut we decided we may as well carry on for a bit before having our lunch. A few of us ended up a bit ahead of the others and planned to have lunch at White Rock. We looked back and saw the others had gone on strike so headed back joining them for lunch.

On the way back we stopped at the lighthouse for the climb up to take in the view and take photographs. We also met up with Warren and Ian - fishless at this stage. The final few km back to Ngawi were a pain with a head wind, corrugated gravel, and a fair bit of traffic. Still it wasn't that far. We still had plenty of time to wander up and back along the strand checking out the bulldozers and their boats. A convivial evening was spent eating, (no fish though) drinking and DVDing.

The plan for Sunday was for some to tramp and others to do some more mountain biking. However the weather was not that inviting and as the tramp was to be up one river and out another, we went for a walk north along the coast from the bach surveying the coastal erosion and trying to trap Warren in the culverts under the road he derived pleasure from exploring. In the afternoon we went sightseeing, ending up at the Lake Ferry Hotel.

The weather was worse on the Monday but before cleaning up to leave we ventured out for a walk south along the coast. We were heading into the weather, sometimes sleet, so when we decided we'd had enough we had the weather to our backs as we headed back.

Although we didn't do as much outside as we planned, the bach was comfortable, the company was convivial and a good time was had by all. All being:- Martin and Anne Lawrence, Tina Bishop, Yvette Cottam, Woody Lee, Warren Wheeler, Richard Lockett, Craig Allerby, Janet Wilson (organiser), and myself.

Mackintosh Hut - Kawekas 12-13 June Report by Piper the sharp-eyed avian dog

It was a grey morning and there were two pick-ups. Mmmm, nice smells. There was lots of laughter on the trip up to the hills.

It was good to get out and stretch my legs; the cold wind whipped around my legs and I had to keep moving - I was in a hurry and everyone else were so slow. It felt like forever and finally we were on our way. The Boss he was out front and the others were behind him. I hurtled down the road and rushed back again - just to check the Boss was still there. We started to go downhill and there was a delicious smell that had

to be checked out; oh, I forgot, my pack slowed me down - whoops, nearly lost my footing, now the Boss has called me and I've gotta go. The others are so slow (there was lots of talking) but the Boss he is out front with another young one and it is so cool running back and forth and making sure the others are following along.

We get to the hut and there is a lot of activity. The boss is cutting wood, my pack is off my back and my dinner and blankets are being unwrapped. There is so much to see and do and look there is one of the party who has got skinny long legs – perfect for me to put my head through and get my ears rubbed on some woolly fabric. Bliss!

It's getting colder and now there is rain and it is very warm inside the hut. So close and yet so far away – I'm outside and close to the door so I can hear the Boss; lucky that I'm really good, I know how to keep warm and stay on my blanket; the Boss covers me up so I don't get cold. More laughs and everyone are getting on well. I hear my name mentioned a lot. They must like me. Whoops, 3 new people have arrived; the door opens and closes a lot and there is a lot of hot air rushing out because I'm near the door. The floor space is getting a little cramped, by the door, the new people walk around me and I know the Boss won't let anything happen to me.

The light goes on and there is delicious smells for dinner. Mine is a good chew, outside on the verandah, and the Boss helps me get my meal. I love the Boss. In the night, there are birds, I know a lot about birds because I'm already trained to gently work with them.

Next morning – it took some time then we were off back down the hill and to the bridge – I had to sit down and take notice; the Boss he fed me so I got morning tea like everyone else. Up the hill and along to the double-cab and there was rain coming...but no! there is a problem with the cab and everyone is pushing and pushing. I was dry – no worries. The others are not too good – they are cold and drenched. We are towed to Kaweka Forest HQ and there the double-cab got a jump-start. It was a long trip home and there was not a lot to do except sleep.

Two legged trip members: Geoff (The Boss) and Rochelle Beaumont, Fiona Donald, Jennifer and Kaye Kitchen.

Rangi Hut Report by Tony Gates

19 June

On nearly the shortest day of the year, the six of us enjoyed a sunny day up on the Ruahine tussock tops past Rangi Hut. Other PNTMC

members were at the same time on the Hikurangi Range, and others on the Ngamoko Range. On our tramp, the winter sunshine was weak but much appreciated - we even blobbed on some sun cream at the hut - and the views were beautiful. There was really no rush, even after our 9.00 AM start, as Rangi Hut was reached comfortably (if sweatily) by lunch time. We returned to our cars well before dark.

The continued popularity of the area was noted, with several day and overnight trampers at the hut. It was easy to see why on such a gorgeous day.



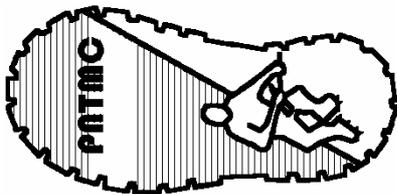
Lunch and sunbathing at Rangi Hut.

Our first obstacle was the dreaded slip sidle track. The realigned DoC track climbs steeply, keeping the track well away from what is obviously a gaunt and active scree slope. It's muddy. Back on the main track, we ambled over the attractive bridge then sweated on up to Rangi Hut. This was the first time to Rangi Hut for some of the group, so they could see the close tussock and distant snow covered peaks in all their glory. For the old timers of the group, these scenes never lose their appeal.

We brewed up, dined, and chatted to other day trampers at the hut, then it was an easy stroll above the hut to see more views. One trumper in our group had snow shoes, so desperately searched amongst the tussock for small snow patches to play on. Apparently, these snow shoes allow rapid and secure tramping over snow and ice - provided that it is there! (He also had crampons with him, and also failed to find any suitable ice). The others were content to merely tramp through the light snow patches.

We ambled back to the hut, then it was a careful tramp back to the cars. Parts of the track descended steeply, with loose rocks, roots, and mud. Someone said that the track reminded them of the Tararuas.....

We were; Warren Wheeler, Tony Gates, Pauline Healy, Glen Pendergrast, Nicola Wallace and Peter Chamberlain (leader).



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PNTMC Newsletter

July 2010

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Articles for the newsletter

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

Get out and about with us!

www.pntmc.org.nz

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