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# Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

## Newsletter November 2010

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### 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.

#### 11 November BYO slides

Your chance to show off, and to boast about your recent trips. Contact Warren if you have anything to show.

#### 18 November Committee Meeting

#### 25 November Rambling UK

Audrey Watson is our special guest speaker from the UK. She won a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship to tour NZ and share her rambling experiences in UK compared with tramping in New Zealand.

#### 9 December End of year BBQ.

Annual awards and Christmas social at Ashurst Domain.

#### Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to Tony Gates, the newsletter editor, at [kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz](mailto: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

**30- 31 October****Triangle Hut** **M**  
**Barry Scott** **354 0510**

Great Ruahine country awaits on the tramp to and from Triangle Hut in the Oroua Valley. Enter via Rangi Hut, over the tussock tops, then so to Triangle Hut. If the river is OK (it usually is), tramp down to the Iron Gate Hut sidle track, then climb back up to the tops at Mangahuia, returning to the car park via Deadmans Track. Depart PN 7.00am Saturday.

**31 October****Caving Introduction** **M**  
**Graham Peters** **329 4722**

This trip visits a North Wairarapa cave known as PT17 or Indecision. It is an easy introduction to caving and will give you a taste of the underground world. No special gear required but be prepared to get dirty! Departing 8am.

**6 November (Sat)****Manawatu Gorge** **E**  
**Gina Fermor** **359 0096**

This classic and regular local tramp is designed to suit all levels of fitness and tastes. Plenty of good bush, an easy track, and a great café at the end. Depart PN 8.00am.

**6- 7 Nov****Roaring Stag** **E/ M**  
**Woody Lee** **357 2390**

Depart 10am, as it should take about 4 hrs (including lunch break). This lodge is located on the Eastern side of the Tararuas, by the Ruamahanga River. It is spring so we should have enough daylight to stroll the surrounding area, river, and forest the next day. We can sleep on the deck to watch the stars.

**7 Nov****Ruapehu Climbing** **F/ T**  
**Derek Sharp** **323 3028**

A rewarding climb of our favourite mountain, ascending to the summit plateau and looking for suitable ice gullies crampons up. Depart early.

**13- 14 Nov****Sawtooth Ridge** **M/ F**  
**Chris Tuffley** **359 2530**

This will be a sturdy tramp to the Ruahine alpine heartland. traversing the legendary Sawtooth Ridge. Hopefully, we depart Friday evening to allow an easier Saturday, so we can enjoy the Ruahine tussock tops for longer. Contact Chris for details.

**14 Nov****Keretaki Hut** **M**  
**Dave Grant** **357 8269**

Located in a prominent grassy ridge top between

Woodville and Dannevirke, Keretaki Hut is a neat place to visit. It's just south of Maharahara peak. Both tracks are a bit steep to the hut, via either the Orouakiritaki stream (wet feet), or Observation Spur (cow pats to walk past)- but a round trip is possible. Depart 8.00am.

**20- 21 Nov****Pouakai Circuit** **M**  
**Christine Cheyne** **354 6387**

Dep 7.00am Saturday, Tram from North Egmont to Holly Hut then Pouakai Hut, overnite there, then return to car over Maud and Henry Peaks. Good views assured.

**21 Nov****Windmills at Dawn** **E**  
**Warren Wheeler** **356 1998**

Depart 4.30am. We will drive to the top of the Pahiatua Track and turn off for a spectacular walk with the windmills along North Range Road. Moonlight and stars. Dawn and sunrise. BYO champagne breakfast. Coffee at the café to finish. Don Quixote never had it so good.

**27- 28 Nov****Tunupo/ Iron Gate Hut** **M/ F**  
**Martin Lawrence** **357 1695**

A mixed tussock-forest-riverside tramp to one of our best local huts and valleys. There will be great views over the upper Pohagina Valley, as well as the Oroua, Rangi, and elsewhere. Maybe camping out. Depart PN 8.00am.

**28 Nov****A-Frame/Tamaki circuit** **M**  
**Dave Grant** **357 8269**

Many good day tramps radiate out from the Tamaki road end, near Dannevirke. This tramp will climb onto the range to visit the A Frame (Travers Hut), follow Takapari Road north for a bit, descend to Stanfield Hut, then exit either via the river or Holmes Ridge. Depart 8.00am.

**3- 5 December****Upper Otaki** **M/ F**  
**Tony Gates** **357 7439**

This tramp will venture into the big bush of the upper Otaki Catchment, passing through beautiful river flats and forest. With a flexible plan, we will aim to establish a camp Friday evening a couple of hours up the Waikawa, then navigate through the Waitewaewae catchment to the Otaki. Plentiful gorgeous campsights can be found there. On Sunday, we can climb out of the Otaki via Waiopehu/ Gable End.

**5 Dec****Makairo- Coonor** **E/ M**  
**Fiona Donald** **356 1095**

Depart 8am. This closed road is between two

country districts in the Pahiatua area. We turn at the Tui Brewery to journey inland. This is a great walk that winds its way up to the fantastic views at the summit. Others use this route: motor/mountain cyclists. It can be muddy. If interested then please telephone **before** 9 pm.

**11- 12 Dec**

**Piropiro Flats / Pureora** **All**

**Richard Lockett** **323 0948**

PNTMC has unfinished Mountain Bike business in the delightful Pureora Forest Park. There are also good day walks on old forestry roads.

**12 Dec**

**Maharahara** **M**

**Peter Wiles** **358 6894**

Another classic local trip to the Southern Ruahines, with the opportunity to cross the range from Pohangina to Dannevirke. You can see this peak from Palmerston North.

**Matemateonga Walkway - Early Notification**

PNTMC plans a 4 day Matemateonga Tramp for 10-13 March 2011. This is an area seldom visited by PNTMC, so will be very interesting and not too difficult once spread over four days. There are several options to explore the area, including visiting "The Bridge to Nowhere". Transport arrangements are \$190.00 (jet boat and connections).

Contact Malcolm Parker 06 357 5203

**Notices**

**January- June 2011 Trip Card**

The next PNTMC trip card, for January to June 2011, has been started. This is planned to be completed to be posted with the December 2010 Newsletter. Please assist where you can. There are many great trips to dream about. You as a leader can make them happen.

Please contact Janet Wilson, 329 4722, or Terry Crippen, 356-3588, if you are able to lead a trip. Remember, late summer- autumn is always a favoured time to get out and about.

**NZ Mountain Safety Council**

PNTMC has recently purchased a double DVD from the Mountain Safety Council. This will be available for loan. There is a series of short movies that members may be interested in. Note production date to see differences in fashion and technology.

The movies are:

- It was just a tramp in the bush (1999)
- Such a stupid way to die (1971)
- Found Alive (1989)
- Do you need to cross? (1996)
- Bushcraft information.

**Interclub Photo Competition 2010 - Results**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Taken by</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Club</b>
Landscape	1 <sup>st</sup>	Richard Lander	Hump Ridge boardwalk	MTSC
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Martin Lawrence	Lake Sylvester, Kahurangi National Park	PNTMC
	Commended	Ken Mercer	Cave near Karamea	MTSC
Above Bushline	1 <sup>st</sup>	Sam Johnson	The climb before the ski - Ngauruhoe	MTSC
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Richard Lander	Ruapehu	MTSC
Below Bushline	1 <sup>st</sup>	Tony Fransen	Lost world	MUAC
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Richard Lander	Stream, Hump Ridge Track	MTSC
	Commended	Tony Fransen	Lost world 2	MUAC
Natural History	1 <sup>st</sup>	Eric Liu	Gannets	PNTMC
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Richard Lander	Gull – Tora Walk	MTSC
Overseas	1 <sup>st</sup>	Chris Tuffley	Arapiles Sunset	PNTMC
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Josh Sydney-Smith	Snow Gums	MUAC
	Commended	Christine Scott	Masai, Zanzibar	MTSC
	Commended	Mike Archer	Ski touring	PNTMC
Topical	1 <sup>st</sup>	Nic Durkin	Sock tree	MUAC
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Eric Liu	On Kapakapanui	PNTMC
	Commended	Hayden Short	Hut climbing	MUAC
	Commended	Tony Fransen	Lost world abseil	MUAC

### For Sale

Macpac Glissade Pack, blue, 75 litres, size 3; in good condition, hasn't been used much. \$100.

Macpac Olivine parka, large size, good tramping length, blue, Gore-tex but could probably do with a redo of water repellency (like allGore-tex). Hasn't been used much. \$100.

Zamberlan Liskamm stiff tramping/ climbing boots, 3mm leather, size 46, vibram soles. Well used but still got many kms left in them. \$50.

Contact Terry: 356-3588, 027 643 36 37.

### From the PNTMC Leaders Evening 10 August 2010

**Scenario Three:** Easy/Medium Grade day trip to Stanfield Hut via Holmes Ridge and returning via Tamaki River.

It is a cool, dry, autumn day. The party consists of yourself, another experienced club member, and three non club members in their 20s – they do not know each other and have little tramping experience. One of the new people struggles on the climb up to the ridge, stopping frequently. When he reaches the top feels faint and vomits.

DISCUSS how you and the group would manage the situation?

## Editorial

I thought that I had commented enough about current TV programmes in the October 2010 Newsletter - then I saw Annabelle Langbein's "The Free Range Cook" venturing into Fiordland. This was on her Saturday evening show a couple of days after Peter van Essen gave us a lovely presentation about tramping in southern Fiordland. Despite the TV producer's audacity to state that you can only go to Fiordland by boat or helicopter, the show was, as expected for prime time viewing, pretty scenic and interesting. Fresh Fiordland fare from the fiords featured, with crayfish and blue cod on the menu. Of course there were many suitable delectable morsels from a very full garden somewhere near Wanaka for veges and fruit.

On the subject of TV, Craig Potton has completed his odyssey of commenting on New Zealand rivers, with recent programmes on the Mokihinui, Clarence, and Rangitata Rivers - all special to any tramper's memory. Indeed, the Rangitata River headwaters featured recently, as

Craig was guided by Southern Alps veteran Geoff Spearpoint. In places like there, glaciers, and mountains have long been a favourite place for many club trips.

And, writing about favourite places, I recently borrowed, photo copied, and studied some old NZFS Ruahine hut log books from some of our favourite huts. I find their writings inspirational, often humorous, and they are a great slice of Ruahine history. It is particularly special to see names of familiar people and clubs amidst the predominantly Government worker entries. As expected, PNTMC features.

The Quote of the month, and the irresistible words in "Poetry Corner" (below) come from some of these fine volumes. Some similar comments. Cartoons and poems have been printed here in the past - there could be more published here in future.

## Trip Reports

### 25- 26 September Tukino 4WD- Snow Shoe- Climb Report and photos by Tony Gates



*Terry's red Limousine (plus other 4WD) being towed by a mega tractor. Note snow trench depth.*

After weeks of terrible weather (actually before the bad weather ended) three brave souls adventured up to Tukino. Mega snow and mega

MEGA wind gave us a pretty mega adventure based from the lodge that we could drive too. It appears that "mega" doesn't even fit on the scale of wind speed, suffice to say that it was pretty uncomfortable outside at times.

Eric Liu, Terry Crippen, and Tony Gates cruised up to the mountain in a large red four wheel drive limousine, and kitted out at Waiouru in all out mountain storm clothing splendour. Not exactly Ruapehu's next top model, but we were all reasonably well layered and protected. Up the Tukino Road, we kitted out the limousine with four tyre chains at the Rangipo Hut track, and joined a short queue of similarly attired vehicles. A bulldozer and tractor were clearing the road-the snow cat was virtually completely buried!.

By mid morning, the Tukino Ski Field people allowed a few four wheel drive vehicles to be towed up by the mega tractor and bulldozer. Yes, they towed the big red limousine through the cutting that the bulldozer had made. Initially, we noted a mere wall of snow beside the road, but on closer inspection, we noted that it was considerably deeper than a vehicle is tall. They told us that the snow cutting reaches four or five metres at time, our cutting was a mere three metres deep, which is still much deeper than a wagon is tall.

The bulldozer had been scraping and pushing snow for several hours, and had made a very impressive trench, maybe 200 metres long. It was rather nice to be towed up! Once free of the clutches of the mega snow, the bulldozer let us free, so that the chauffeur of our fine limousine could utilise his chains to full effect. No problems till just before the lodge, where getting stuck wasn't much of a problem on the flat, with lots of human diggers about, and a tractor to assist. Another option some vehicles used was merely to plough into the snow and park, then wait for the snow to melt later. We unloaded the limo with great care as the wind howled on by.

The remainder of Saturday passed in a blur of watching the wind, battling it on occasional forays outside the lodge on snow shoes. There was lots of soft snow about, and they opened the ski tows. A few dozen skiers and boarder carved their trails. The lodge filled up.

Sunday brought no relenting of the mega wind. The rest of the mountain must have been really hammered, but we were in a sort of semi sheltered bit with blue sky. We kitted out again, this time with climbing harnesses etcetera, and plodded over to the northern cliffs for some rope and belay practice.



*Eric striding out and battling fearsome Tukino winds.*

This is an excellent place for snowcraft instruction, with steep slopes and good run outs below sheltered from the wind. There wasn't really any ice there, just steep snow, and a few crevasses where it breaks away from the rocks. Eric led up the most difficult section under the expert guidance of Terry, so soon we were back in the mega wind on the ridge top. We staggered back to the ski field. Well known mountain man Don French appeared with shovel and assistants on a geocache search - but there was way too much snow to let him find it.

Back at the lodge, we tidied up and departed after lunch. The snow had melted considerably, and the road was pretty good. Some people at the ski field had mountain bikes on their vehicle, and it looked like a good ride down.

## **2 October**

### **TBA - Mt Holdsworth there and back Report and photo by Richard Lockett**

I put my hand up to lead this day trip on the club night prior as the weather forecast looked good for a change, particularly down in the Wairarapa. Warren suggested a trot up onto Holdsworth would be good as there were no takers for his trip to TNP at that stage and as I hadn't been up that way for a long while, Holdsworth it was. Warren was hoping for some snow on the tops but the trip down revealed nice clear tops and no sign of any left over winter snow, the spring

snow not yet having arrived. By the amount of cars in the car park it was fair to say that we would not be alone in the hills today.



*Powell Hut, with the Waiohine Valley, Totara Flats, and Pig Flat beyond.*

Since my last visit to these parts the track up to the Totara flats track junction has been upgraded which made for good progress. Soon we were down to just shorts and tee shirt as we reached the newish viewing deck at Rocky Lookout, time for a drink and bite. Warren muttered something about an encounter with a large black bear the night before which was still messing with his head and impeding his usual spirited progress, I didn't enquire further.

Upwards and onto Pig Flat and the track as I remember it past Mountain House Shelter climbing steeper to the bush line, our reward a clear view down the Waiohine River and Totara Flats - clear as. Onwards past Powell Hut (a couple lunching on the deck) to our goal the trig point with clear views in all directions and just a slight cool breeze. The trig was reached bang on lunch time so my stomach said and so we did on the eastern side out of the breeze, Mount Holdsworth all to ourselves.

We had decided to do a circuit and come down via the East Holdsworth Track so we set off along the track towards Jumbo and soon arrived at the East Track junction and a sign 2.5 hours to carpark or 4 hours via Powell Hut. Down through the tussock grass towards the trees on your more traditional Tararua track, steeper into the trees and using the roots as stairs down the ridge with the noisy Holdsworth Creek beside but unseen. A final drop down to the Atiwhakatu Track junction with splendid new sign 2.25 hours to carpark. Fifteen minutes to nip down the East Holdsworth Track, we must be old decrepit trampers, black bears or not.

Its only about 4 kms along the Atiwhakatu Track from here back to the car and the track has been

shifted up onto the terrace above the stream at the gorgy part with boardwalk and wide gravel path, good to stretch the legs again after all those tree roots. A beautiful day that just needed capping off with an ice cream at the dairy by the Mobil service station now selling Kapiti ice cream, Yum ee.

### **3 October Zekes Hut Finally Report and photo by Peter Wiles**

Although a team of three were determined to go to Zekes Hut in the Hihitaki Sanctuary near Waiouru on the day of the scheduled trip, the 6am news report advised that State Highway 1 was closed north of Mangaweka!

Plan B was executed with a morning walk through the Gorge (both directions). Despite an unpromising forecast only one shower occurred which necessitated donning parkas but wetted us only slightly. The wettest part of the day was the dash across the car park at the Balance Café for a pre-lunch snack and coffee. (Team of Anne, Martin and Peter)

The first weekend in October presented itself as the first fine weekend for a couple of months? Really? Well almost. Anyway, a fresh team of four ventured forth for the quest for Zekes on 3rd October. Since no one in the party had been there before, the route and everything about the trip was all new.

From the locked gate near the DOC Hihitaki Sanctuary signs, a poled route heads across and down over farmland (a boggy ex crop of turnips currently), across a wire bridge and across a along swampy paddock before climbing about 30m to a fence and the start of the track proper. The first 400-500m of this section along the bush edge is also muddy. (Future hint – in winter or wet conditions, consider wearing gumboots until the small stream in the bush is crossed – a total walk from the road of about 1500m).

The track then climbs a couple of hundred metres quite steeply (rather slippery) and then travels on a gentle rise until a clearing is reached at about 1100m where the remains of an old trig are located. Good views all around and especially of the army land and central mountains can be gained here.

After another 15min or so, continuing still on a NE general direction, a sudden 90°+ change in direction to the SE is reached. After walking in this direction for a short while through mountain cedar forest, the track drops about 150m over

the side to the bottom of the gully. The hut is on a nice sunny NE facing clearing, a little above the stream. And it is a very nice new four-bunk double glazed and insulated model with wood stove and water tank. Over the winter, it sees a couple of parties a month. Despite it not being DOC's highest use / priority track, it was in very good condition, well marked and given the recent raging winds and heavy snow, had very few tree falls.



*PNTMC at Zekes Hut, Hihitahi Forest Sanctuary*

Without snacking stops, allow about 2½h for the walk in. It is a really nice walk for a daytrip and might easily become a club regular. But think about some gumboots. Also it is an excellent trip for a small party who would like an easy weekender. When the Desert Road is closed or conditions in Tongariro NP are unpleasant, perhaps consider Zekes as Plan B.

Woody Lee, Holly Yang, Nicole Patterson, Peter Wiles

### **8- 10 October South West Tararuas- Waiotaru- Elder Biv Report by Janet Wilson**

Billed as a 3 day fit trip, this was venturing into a new area for me, and as it turned out, for the rest of the team too.

The forecast certainly wasn't promising but we decided to go anyway and "suck it and see", with planning in place for the various contingencies.

We departed Otaki Forks for the Waiotauru river just after 9am, and soon encountered the large slip the road end sign had warned up of. A good track leads on to it but that ran out on a corner and Graham, aka Mountain Goat, who was in the lead, declared it unsafe and so we backtracked a short way to the river. I had been assured you could bypass the slip by rock hopping along the river bank but this proved impossible with a deep

pool under a bluff blocking our way on. And so we chose to cross and recross the river to regain the track. I recall that some shorts did get a little wet. After this the track is mostly an easy, sometimes narrow sidle along the true left until you reach the swing bridge, where we had morning tea.

Once on the true right the track is more obviously an old road which sidles high above the river. The gardeners in the group were alarmed at the number of introduced weeds in the area and took their wrath out on a single agapanthus plant spotted lurking by the track. Half way along we came across a well laden hunter heading out to Otaki. Nearer the Waiotauru hut the track drops back down to and crosses the river (no bridge here as is indicated on the old maps). The hut is old and barn like and must be a good party place for the people who can drive to it! Wiring to a light is in place so you just need to supply your own generator. We had lunch inside out of the wind and were surprised when 3 modern Land Rovers arrived.

The next stage turned out to be a steady 2 hour climb along an old gravel road. Some of the stream crossings were well washed out and it looked to me like a difficult drive in places. It started to rain part way up. We eventually arrived at a road end from where the track to Renata Hut starts. Someone had been having fun here judging by the number of shotgun cartridges on the ground and the shot up/ broken/ signs. It was nice to be back on a real track for the 1/2 hour walk to Renata Hut. Arrived around 4pm. Renata is an old hut too, very basic like you find near road ends. Lots of rubbish left there but the dunny was nice and we all appreciated the shelter as the rain and wind set in.

Next morning wasn't any better so we delayed going up to Elder Hut in the hope the weather would improve. It did just on lunch time and we had a dry walk up the sometimes boggy track. The track climbs mostly slowly up gentle ridges, different from the steeper tracks that are usual further north. Mostly we were in the bush, protected from the strong wind. We arrived at the hut in time to get a quick view out to the coast and Kapiti Island before the wind, rain and sleet started again. Elder is a lovely small modern hut, just right for the 4 of us. The wind calmed down as we went to bed and we were optimistic the conditions over the tops to Hector and Kime would be ok the next day.

Hmmm.... well, in the night the wind got up again and by morning it was blowing hard and the cloud was well down. So, it wasn't too hard to abandon Plan A and go to the alternative -

retracing our steps from the last 2 days, and after all, the trip was graded "fit". It was a bit of a slog, especially the road section, but we made good time and were back at the cars before 5pm (and we crossed the river again to avoid the slip). It was good to get to 3 huts and cover country we hadn't seen before.

We were Craig and Micheal Allerby, Graham Peters and Janet Wilson (leader and scribe).

**10 October**  
**Apiti Track, Norsewood.**  
**Report and photo by Richard Lockett**

I'd never been up this track into the Ruahines before which got me wondering as to why. A little triangular corner of the Ruahines has been missing off my radar, having been too tight to ever having owned a 260 series U23 Ongaonga map. The citizens of Norsewood must have marched on mass to parliament as with these new Topo50 maps the boundaries have been shifted east and the map renamed Norsewood. Now the little triangular corner of the Ruahines is over on the western side on a map called BL35 Kimbolton. I'll have a look to see if I was too tight to buy that one.

Now for the trip itself. Terry Crippen and Warren Wheeler joined in, with Terry wanting an easy trip with no wind. We set off from the carpark on Ngamoko Rd, following the old benched road gradually climbing up towards the ridge which separates the Manawatu and Mangatewainui catchments. A couple of kms and the old road changed to your typical Ruahine tramping track before cresting the ridge and the strong winds to which we had previously been sheltered. Sorry Terry.

We pushed on holding our hats in exposed parts, putting on layers as we got colder. Lots of storm damage up here, trees and branches littering the track. A brief stop for a late morning tea, before a short burst onwards to our destination for the day- the Makaretu Hut Junction.

Being very windy and cold we didn't hang around to long. We took the opportunity because it needed to be done to clear the track of windfall as we retreated back hence we had came, removing all but the chainsaw stuff. A job well done.

Halfway home along the track the sun appeared, warming us up, which capped of the day of well. Even better back in Palmy digging into Terry's home baking, a large iced carrot cake. Thanks Guys.



*Terry checking his emails on Apiti Track, Norsewood.*

## Book Review

**A Wee Walk in the Wilderness** Walking the Length of New Zealand through the Bush 1983/84, by Rex Hendry (2009).

Reviewed by Terry Crippen

90 pages, soft cover, \$30.75 available from [www.publishme.co.nz/shop/nz](http://www.publishme.co.nz/shop/nz)

This is the story of Rex's walk from North Cape to Bluff and on down to Doughboy Bay on Stewart Island; through mostly bush, hills and mountain land in the early 1980s. Apart from being a trumper and climber, Rex has been an outdoor educator and is currently on the Taranaki Wanganui Conservation Board.

This walk took place at a time when a walkway the length of New Zealand was first being mooted and he tries his utmost to keep away from roads. At this time the New Zealand Forest Service still existed and the network of post offices was still available to send ahead cartons of food and supplies. In his travels, sometimes accompanied by a friend, he found most people very friendly and helpful.

Much of the route he took would be known to some of us. For example close at hand; Sunrise Hut to Howletts to Iron Gates in the Ruahines. And further afield; in and along the Southern

Alps; for example down the Dobson, into the Hopkins and Huxley and over Broderick Pass into the Landsborough. However some areas, for example in Northland, are probably less familiar, and these sections could suggest tramps worth doing when in those areas.

Besides being an account of the route taken and the physically draining effort required, there is at times a wee bit of geology and some basic philosophical comment. The manuscript for this presumably self published book had "languished at the bottom of the [authors] wardrobe for 25 years". In the words of the author it hasn't been "tarted up" and so it's a basic account as we would often write a trip report. Many of the terms used are those that we use when out tramping and climbing.

There is a series of maps showing the path taken through New Zealand which are handy to follow. But they are not up to scratch when compared to a professionally published book. The selection of photos in the book also suffer from this type of publishing. And there are some errors including a paragraph on being tent-bound in Antarctica (presumably from Rex's other book - another good little book to read presumably).

However the book is still a good quick read, and I recommend it. For fellow walkers, trampers and climbers it could inspire you to take on a significant project yourself out there in the New Zealand countryside, hills and mountains – NZ is a neat part of the world to have on our door step.

## Historical Feature

### **Kaimanawa Easter**

**8-11 April 1966**

**From PNTMC Newsletter No.3 April 1966**

Leader Russ Lacey, with Trevor Arnold, Ian Barnes, Chris Freyberg, Ron Haxton, Vern Jensen, Russ Lacey, M. McGregrey, Tony Morrison, Bill Olsen, Keith Potter, Sue Roberts

After calling on Mr Robert's at Owhaka Station and collecting the Golden Hills Hut Book and some rain gauge charts etc., the party headed off around the Eastern side of the Ngamatea swamp.

Most of the party headed towards the river along the horse track to the old log cabin, while one good keen man headed on the shorter horse track to the Golden Hills.

The party headed up the Taruarau River, pausing for a swim on the way up. After some confusion at the gorge most of us scrambled over a heavily manuka covered ridge, and after crossing several creeks darkness overtook us. Pressing on by torch-light we reached the head of the river. Vern and Chris moved ahead of the party, soon reaching the hut, and we arrived to a welcome brew.

Several members slept out under the stars being lulled asleep by the calls of the morepork and the shrill call of the kiwi.

On Saturday the party crossed a bush saddle to look into the head of the Ngaruroro River, towards Boyd Hut we could see the towering rocky point or Boyds Rock or Tapuiomaruahine. After moving eastwards along a tussock ridge we again circled, frightening up several deer on our way down off the tops, and soon reached the saddle and Golden Hills for an easy day.

Sunday the party headed towards the Kaimanawa Hut for a very enjoyable days tramping, the round trip between five and six hours.

On Monday we returned down the river to our transport and home via Taihape.

A really interesting weekend with some unusual happenings.

One member, becoming separated from the party decided to camp along side the track, and awoke as the party came along in the dark. He made a very hurried exit, from his sleeping bag to avoid being trodden on!

Venison stew to be remembered by all, a roaring campfire and a sing-song on a very frosty night.

The multitude of native birds and their calls - those heard or seen were; Grey Warblers, Tuis, Bellbirds, Riflemen, North Island Pied Tits', Pipits, Bush Hawks, and the shrill cries of the Kiwi at night.

Of interest to the botanically minded were very many sub-alpine and tussock plants, namely the Spaniard, Red Tussock, several whipcord Hebes, Celmesias, Ourisias and the Mountain Beech on which we found several mistletoe plants. A terrific weekend enjoyed by eleven PNTMC members.

## Quote of the month: Leon Kinvig Hut Log Book

### Extracts- Leon Kinvig Hut Log Book (with thanks to the NZ Forest Service)

**23 Feb 72.** Heading down to Mid Pohangina, then out to base. I will set new record going out, you see I'm out of tobacco. Even out of butts. Red, NZFS.

**29 Feb 72.** Back again from Mid Poh (given up smoking) Red NZFS.

**1 March 72.** Heading up to Top Gorge tent camp, back Sunday. Red, NZFS.

**Sunday,** back again, took three more scalps for me old war bag. Rotten weather. Big Red, NZFS.

**Tuesday,** going slowly mad, been raining for three days now, river up, so aint going anywhere no how. When the river's down taking a power out of here to the pub to get a few fixes. Red, NZFS.

**Wednesday,** still raining, damp, in a bad way, man I think I'll take up smoking again when I get out of here. Watch the mice in the rafters, savage little beasties. Red.

**9 March 72.** Still raining, river's up a good 3 feet.

**10 March 72.** Still raining, river's up a good 5 feet.

**11 March 72.** Stop raining, rivers down, I'm away man. Red NZFS.

**13 May 72, Saturday.** In from Mid Poh, observed no deer. Overcast and windy, looks like a bit of liquid in the air in the not too distant future. Rain started 2.30 PM. C Montgomery, W L Biggs, NZFS.

**14 May 72.** Rain began that night, and has not let up. River high, staying till it drops. Cleaned out food cupboard and filled wood box. We have no meat, and there's not much chance of me getting anything in this weather, not unless a beast comes inside.

Still raining.

**15 May 72.** Gave the hut a good spring cleaning, even if it is at the wrong time of year. Still pouring with bloody rain, the river is really high, I think I'll be lucky if we, and the hut, don't finish up down at Mid Poh hut before the morning. The radio has been screaming "heavy rain and flooding will be occurring tonight"!! What the hell do they think we've been having up here for the last two days- sunshowers and a bit of a fresh, or something? C Montgomery, NZFS.

Still Raining.

**16 May 72 (morning).** After a horrible night of rain and wind, the sun has now risen to bring forth a lousy dry day or morning, it'll probably rain this afternoon.

Still raining.

**Afternoon.** Read rain gauge up on top (Tom's), and attempted to drop a beast on the way back, but missed both shots, just have to settle for green beans, peas, and mixed vegetables. A diet fit only for deer cullers. The rain has begun again, I'm beginning to shit beans, spaghetti, and our favourite canned greens. W L Biggs, NZFS.

**17 May 72.** River down, but still raining, rained most of the night. Evening, still raining, river rising again. Called Bruce ZL BH82 on the radio. He and a Forestry party were at Iron Gates Hut in the Oroua, looking for a party of five young blokes, overdue. But heard on the radio, they have been found OK.

***Ode to a wet weekend***

***By Anon***

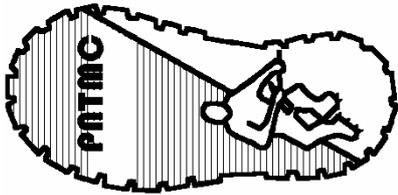
***From Kawhatau Base Logbook May 1975***

*Sitting in this Base Camp  
The weather's clagged right out  
It'll stay like this for another week  
Of that there is no doubt.*

*Kerry's out amongst the hills  
In Porongaki Hut  
The only person with me here  
Is "Bruce" me mangy mutt.*

*Big Dorro's drinking beer I'll bet  
Twenty miles away  
I've got no means of A to B  
So here I'll have to stay.*

*It's really not that bad you know  
No Sun, no mates, no pub  
There's one thing that I like at Base  
It's vast amounts of grub!!!*



**Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.**

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

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## **PNTMC Newsletter**

### **November 2010**

#### ***What's inside this month?***

- *Upcoming trips and club events*
- *Interclub Photo competition results*
- *Mt Holdsworth tramp, Elder Biv, Zekes Hut, Tukino Snow shoe trip*

**Plus an historic Kaimanawa Tramp Easter' 66, and historic Hut Log Book quotes.**

#### **Articles for the newsletter**

Send by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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!**

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