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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 August 2011

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*PNTMC tramping through Hardings Park, July 2011. Beautiful winter weather. Arawaru peak, and parts of the Kahuterawa and Tokomaru catchments behind these happy trampers.*

### Club Nights

All are welcome to our club nights. These 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.

**11 August PNTMC Photo competition** This annual event is always popular, despite photographers own opinions about their wonderful entries that don't quite make the grade. Please submit entries in digital format by (date), to Martin Lawrence. Rules and conditions in Notices (below).

**25 August Interclub Quiz** Another exciting social event, this time between PNTMC, MUAC, and MTSC. The Trevor Bissell Memorial Billy is up for grabs. Come along and offer your skills an intellect as a quiz team member, or support our own team. Refer notices (below).

**8 September PNTMC Auction** Purchase a bargain, sell a treasure for profit- this is your chance to offer pre loved stuff up for auction, and to buy someone else's. Refer notices (below).

## Upcoming Trips

**30 or 31 July**  
**Snowcraft 1**

Please refer to notices below.

**30- 31 July**  
**Roaring Stag Lodge** **E/ M**  
**Grant Christian** **354 5843**

Depart 9:00 a.m. Saturday. Travel to the end of Mangatainoka Valley Rd. A short flat stretch followed by a steep climb up to the top of the spur that leads to Herepai, then it's all down hill to Roaring Stag Lodge. Should be there early enough to do some exploring around the area. Back out Sunday morning.

**31 July**  
**Atene Skyline Walkway** **M**  
**Kelly Buckle** **357 9043**

I'll be exploring this 6-8 hour walk near Whanganui. This track is described as having spectacular views of the Whanganui River, Mt. Ruapehu, Mt. Taranaki, the Tasman Sea, and Whanganui River's tributary valleys. The highest elevation is 572m, so it should be a good option in inclement weather. Depart 8:00 a.m.

**30 or 31 July**  
**Snowcraft 1** **I**  
**Bruce van Brunt** **328 4761**

Please refer to notices below.

**6 August (Sat)**  
**Hill 900** **E**  
**Richard Lockett** **323 0948**

Depart 8:00 a.m. A gentle walk up Apiti track, eastern Ruahine's, Norsewood. A short distance past the end of the old road formation, we will divert off the track and climb to the prominent high spot "900", which affords good views east, and to the Manawatu River headwaters.

**7 August**  
**Rangi Loop** **M**  
**Tony Gates** **357 7439**

The wide open tussock slopes of the Whanahuia Range overlook much of the Ruahines. Join Tony on this day tramp up Deadmans Track and back down to Rangi hut. You will need equipment ready for snow and ice, and your leader has some snow shoes, cross country skis, crampons, etcetera ready. Depart PN 7:00 a.m..

**13-14 August**  
**Boundary Stream - Tutira** **All**  
**Anne Lawrence** **357 1695**

This is a DoC "Mainland Island" in central Hawkes Bay, with numerous good tramping trails, forest, river scenery, and native birdlife.

**14 August**  
**Waihohonu or Tama** **E or F**  
**Peter Wiles** **358 6894**

This attractive tussock, beech, and scoria landscape is easily accessible in a day tramp from Palmerston North. And winter conditions will make for cool, clear air and less crowds. Plenty of good tracks and easy ridges to follow. Depart PN early.

**13 or 14 August**  
**Snowcraft 2** **I, M**  
**Bruce van Brunt** **328 4761**

Please refer to notices below.

**20 August (Sat)**  
**Toka Biv in Winter** **M**  
**Peter Darragh** **353 0922**

In a spectacular basin high on Pohangina side of the Ngamoko Range sits this seldom visited ex NZFS "dog kennel" style biv. We plan to climb Knights track to Toka peak, then navigate the Ngamoko Range as far as we can in the direction of the biv. Snow and ice expected. Depart Milverton Park 7:00 a.m.

**21 August**  
**Pukerua Bay-Plimmerton Walk** **M**  
**Anne Lawrence** **357 1695**

We leave the cars at Pukerua Bay and head south along the coast to Plimmerton. From here we take an inland route back to the cars. The coast is fun to explore, and the inland route worth investigating. Leave PN at 8:00 a.m.

**27- 28 August**  
**Mitre Peak** **M/F**  
**Warren Wheeler** **356 1998**

Depart 8:00 a.m. for The Pines carpark, west of Masterton. It is an easy 3-4 hours of ups and downs, tree roots and wasps along the Waingawa River sidle track to Mitre Flats Hut. Next morning is a 3 hour climb up into the snowscape above the bushline to Mitre, at 1571m the highest peak in the Tararua Ranges. Return the same way, out at dusk. This is a non-technical snow trip, ice axes optional.

**28 August**  
**Takapari Rd** **M**  
**Anja Scholz** **356 6454**

The easiest way to access the southern Ruahines is via this ex NZFS road, which climbs gently from Pohangina farmland to leatherwood clothed slopes overlooking Dannevirke, and the A Frame Hut. Access is not difficult, but somewhat steeper and muddier, from the Tamaki River. Depart 8:00 a.m.

**27 or 28 August**

**Snowcraft 3**

**Bruce van Brunt**

Please refer to notices below.

**I,M**

**328 4761**

**3 September (Sat)**

**Ngauruhoe, TNP**

**Peter Chamberlain**

It is possible to climb this classic winter peak of 2287 metres in a day from Palmerston North. We plan to enter via the Mangatepopo Valley. Come prepared for snow and ice. Depart Milverton Park 5:00 a.m..

**M,T**

**356 5539**

**3- 4 September**

**Ngamoko Hut**

**Craig Allerby**

We plan to climb Shorts or Knights track, on the Ngamoko Range, in from Apati, then stroll south along the easy tussock and leatherwood tops. It is a steep descent to this tidy hut beside the Pohangina River headwaters. You should see who here. Expect winter conditions on the tops. Depart PN 7:00 a.m.

**M**

**323 7913**

#### **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
Martin and Anne Lawrence	357-1695

#### **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/>

## **Notices**

### **PNTMC Photo Competition**

**11 August 2011**

#### **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 Tramping/ Alpine: overseas trips  
Overseas People: people met while tramping or climbing overseas.

#### **Deadline:**

Entries are due ASAP, so they can be given to our judge, Udo von Mulert, to study. The images can either be provided by pen drive or CD, or e-mailed to Martin Lawrence at

[martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com](mailto:martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com)

#### **Notes:**

There is a prize for the overall winning image. It is anticipated that the winning images will be entered in the Interclub Comp (October) and FMC Photo Competition (April 2012). 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.

### **Interclub Photo Competition**

**3 October (Monday)**

Organised by our friends at MUAC, this event will be held at 7pm in ICLT lecture theatre, ground floor of the Vet Tower. Entries submitted by each club will generally be the top three for each category from their Annual Club Photo Competitions. Some of the categories are

slightly different to those in the PNTMC Photo Competition so we will make a judicious selection of PNTMC entries to suit. We will submit our entries by 26 September (1 week prior).

### **Interclub Quiz 25 August 2011**

Come along for a fun night out at the interclub quiz between MUAC, MTSC and PNTMC. Answers to a variety of humorous, intellectual, and practical subjects will be competed for. The trophy is the Trevor Bissell Memorial Billy with (often chocolate flavoured) prizes for the winning teams. The 2011 event is organised by PNTMC, and held at our club rooms, Society of Friends, 227 College St Palmerston North.

We would like to see as many people as possible at the quiz. Come along and make up a team of 4-6 people, join in and enjoy.

### **PNTMC Auction 8 September 2011**

Purchase a bargain, sell a treasure for profit, or just enjoy studying what old (?) equipment is up for sale. The PNTMC auction 2011 is your chance to offer pre loved stuff up for sale, and to buy someone else's. PNTMC takes

- sale price if item sells for under \$5.00
- \$2.00 if price between \$5.00 and \$10.00
- 15 % commission for items sold for more than \$10.00

### **Interclub Debate 26 September**

MUAC is again hosting the rejuvenated Interclub Debate between MUAC and PNTMC. Last year MUAC got heir name on the Old Boot trophy – this year we hope it will be our turn. Let Warren or anyone else on the committee know if you are keen to be on our team or come along to offer your support at the ICTL lecture theatre in the Vet Tower at 7.00pm.

### **Living Legends**

Living Legends is a community conservation initiative planting native vegetation in chosen locations throughout New Zealand during September and October 2011. On Saturday 1 October, Living Legends will aim to plant 5000 native trees in the Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve. If you are interested in volunteering to assist, then please register online at [www.livinglegends.co.nz](http://www.livinglegends.co.nz)

### **FMC Tramping Calendar 2012**

FMC have once again printed their Tramping Calendar, published by Craig Potton. Calendars are available for \$18.00 from FMC, PO Box 1604, Wellington 6140.

### **FMC Youtube Video Competition.**

The inaugural FMC Youtube Video Competition begins this year. Members and Individual Supporters can use their talent to showcase tramping and mountaineering in New Zealand. Details on the various categories and how to enter can be found via the FMC website:

<http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/Videocomp/>

The closing date is 31 September 2011. For inspiration, go to <http://www.youtube.com> and search for "Tramping."

### **Public Access**

There are lots of mapping systems about, but this one below is unique as it covers all of NZ, and overlays aerial photos, public access and rights information and topographic data. Its purpose is to provide the preferred entry point for all who seek geographic access information relating to the New Zealand outdoors. With development and population growth in the decades ahead there are concerns that access to public land won't necessarily be a value retained. Check it out at

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

## **Editorial**

### **PNTMC Events Card - Erratum**

Some of you may have noticed that the front page of the Trip Card you received you're your last newsletter has the header as Club Nights: January-June 2011 instead of July-December. You will see that the Trips side is headed correctly.

If you have inadvertently thrown out the new card thinking it was out of date please contact Martin for a new one.

### **Te Manawa Museum**

During winter 2011, Te Manawa Museum of Art Science and History is displaying a lovely exhibition about the Manawatu River. Named "**Te Awa-The River**", it is a series of interactive displays about science and conservation in the Manawatu River (and tributaries), and the work of associated authorities. It is set on a giant

(green) carpet that has a digital aerial photo printed on it, you really feel like you are walking over the Manawatu and Palmerston North. I'm not sure of the scale, but individual houses were easily identifiable, and I walked the Manawatu Gorge track in two and a half paces. In fact, I could walk from Ashhurst to Foxton in about twenty paces, and study various river and countryside features at my feet with ease. 15 minute guided tours are currently available to visitors. Contact Te Manawa to find out more.

### Winter Tramping

Winter weather and short days may make tramping somewhat less attractive than during summer, but it has proved popular for PNTMC. As you can read here, many of our tramps have enjoyed crisp, clear days in the local hills, less crowds, tarns on the tops full of water, and of course no overheating problems. Snow and ice can make for delightful scenes, particularly in the dark bush, and offer a wonderful alpine back drop to our many regular tramps to places like Rangī and Herepai huts. And for some, when the snow freezes, alpine tramping can be considerably easier on crampons. I recently tramped the popular Longview-Howletts circuit, and put my crampons on some ten minutes before reaching Longview Hut. Large muddy areas had frozen surprisingly solid. It was then a difficult snow plugging ascent up onto Otumore, then not too bad along to Howletts. The wind had removed much of the snow, although the short sections of leatherwood remained snow covered- yuk! Past Howletts Hut, however, was sheet ice, hard packed, and offering excellent cramponing conditions. All over the high central Ruahines would have been the same, and probably the Tararua tops too, as long as the ice didn't transform into knee deep slush. Stick to the exposed ridges, and cramponing is just so easy. Wander the sheltered gullies, and spin drift will have built up and the ice and snow transformed to deep slush or powder. PNTMC's Snowcraft Course 2011 will help teach you about overcoming some of these tramping obstacles.

### Media Watch

The popular BBC TV series "Walking with Dinosaurs" was recently on the screen. New Zealand landscapes, with digitally entered dinosaurs, looked somewhat familiar. I noted Punakaiki Pancake rocks (with out of focus houses in the back ground!), and look forward to seeing more West Coast forest and beach scenes- with dinosaurs!

Another popular TV series that will soon feature our mountain landscape is Bear Gryllis and his

show "Man vs Wild". This fit and strong man, obviously well trained and motivated, somehow finds food, water, shelter, and tramping routes through some pretty amazing wilderness. He carries the minimum of survival equipment, and appears to run where ever he goes. One recent trip into the jungles of Sumatra showed Bear Gryllis making a "body harness" and "rope" with jungle vines that looked like supplejack, then abseiling down a 10 metre waterfall. The rope broke, he fell, but the pool at the bottom was deep enough to prevent injury (or perhaps they digitally removed the nylon rope from the screen for the TV audience).

Another dramatic TV show "I Shouldn't Be Alive" featured crevasse extraction from a glacier on Mt Ranier, then the next episode had two Englishmen enduring a frostbitten bivvy high in the Swiss Alps. Once again, some pretty good scenes and explanations, as well as re enactments of fairly crazy events.

## Trip Reports

### 28 May Forks Hut Report by Warren Wheeler

This is a nice easy trip, made easier by being able to drive up the 2km of farm access track, thanks to Lew's little 4WD. We parked in the saddle and went through the gate to follow some 600m of more farm track up the gully to the bush line. Here we took a well trodden shortcut for a couple of hundred metres to join the official track coming down from Te Ekaou Hut, which is just inside the park boundary. We would have passed this hut if we had carried on up the farm track another few hundred metres and used the stile to jump the fence. Although quite easy to follow on the way in, Lew reminded us that even with his extensive local knowledge it is easy to veer off this shortcut in the dark, as he found out recently late one night when returning from deer hunting.

It is only about 1.5km through the bush to Forks Hut and although the odd tree has been blown down across the track in recent storms the track is generally quite straightforward and well marked, without any steep sections until dropping sharply to Forks Hut. This old NZ Forest Service hut is well-looked after and huddled on a small terrace above the two streams that give the site its name. Impressive rock faces give a unique sheltered feel to the place. First lunch and a brew, tall tales and true passed the time but we were not inclined to explore the route through to Diggers Hut and we

left before noon. Again crossing the stream with mostly dry feet we headed steeply uphill above the 30-50 metre high cliff and as usual found it wasn't as bad going up as it felt coming down.

Before long we had retraced our steps and soon arrived at Te Ekaou Hut, another classic 6-bunk hut that had some quirky features added by local hunters, including a sofa from what appeared to be an old bus seat. Both huts have benefited from recent upgrades by DoC. From the bush edge there would be clear views to the mountains, but cloud was in the way today. Thanks Llew, as promised, this was a pleasant trip to a place I have never been to before and well worth a visit. Looking forward to the bush bash through to Diggers some time.

We were Janet Wilson, Warren Wheeler Jenny and Llew Pritchard (leader).

**18-19 June**  
**Mid-Winter Castlepoint**  
**Report by Fiona Donald**

On 18 June, Woody, Fiona and Warren got into Jennifer's car and whizzed over to Castlepoint, on the East Coast of the North Island, to stay in Jennifer's Mum's beach home. Janet and Graham joined the rest of the crew for lunch and we proceeded to have a lot of fun.

It was a wild, wet and windy afternoon and there really wasn't anything better to do but to feast, chat and watch a Carry on Camping DVD from Warren's shelf until the weather had cleared enough for a quick walk to the Lighthouse and down around the rocks. Nearer lunch, we had seen huge kites in the air and, on further investigation, found two kite surfers were having the time of their lives surfing the huge seas along the beach front.

Sunday morning saw most of us help plant native dune grasses as part of a public volunteer day down by the church. We then split off for various walks before lunch then back for more feasting...a quick clean-up with all hands on deck then back into the car for home. A very memorable weekend for all.

**3 July 2011**  
**Hardings Park Circuit**  
**By Geraldine LE MIRE**

It was a cold and sunny Sunday morning in Palmerston North, and we all gathered at Milverton Park, tramping gear on, ready to face the chilly wind and enjoy a nice tramping day in the hills. 3 vehicles took off for Hardings Park,

carrying a nice bunch of people coming from different horizons - Korea, Germany, France and, of course, New Zealand! After little less than 30 minutes drive, we were at the beginning of the track, ready to begin the adventure. The Sledge Track is situated in the Kahuterawa valley, in the Manawatu region. Just time to put tramping shoes on, and "Ready, get start, Go!"

We walked at a nice speed, trying our best to warm up. Leaving the peaceful noise of the river behind us, we headed for the "platinum mine" area, an ascension which dived us into the green world of the kiwi bush. Incredible how dark and humid these areas can be! We came across a large variety of plant species.

I thus had the great opportunity to taste the particular New Zealand pepper bush, also called *Pseudowintera colorata*, or Horopito in Maori. We could see some during most of the track. This plant can grow up to 5 feet tall at maturity (1.52m). Under ideal conditions, it can live about 40 years or more! The leaves are generally yellow-green with red edges. Another widespread plant is the famous Bush Lawyer, which can be found up to 1000m. It is a group of climbing blackberry plants that Maori also call Tataramoia. As rampant forest vines, their leaves have hooked thorns that can easily snag clothing. The English name seems to be given because this thorny plant would not let you go easily until it has drawn blood! (Or once he gets his claws in you he won't let go - Ed.) Every good trumper should get to know that! Not to forget the large number of New Zealand fern trees which brought us shade, and the familiar song of the Tui bird, hidden somewhere in the branches.

We reached the area where a number of mineshafts are hidden in the bush. The discovery of traces of platinum after an exploration in 1875 led to a flurry of activity to find some of this precious material between 1906 and 1920. The site was then abandoned. Our curiosity was such that we went to see one mine with our own eyes. A short horizontal tunnel dug in the rock and full of water is all that is left of it!

We carried on north to the PNCC access road. Unfortunately, Laura and Martin had to leave us at that stage because of Laura's treacherous knee. Hope she'll get better soon! The rest of the group kept on walking, enjoying the landscape which displayed the far away hills, Palmy barely visible in the distance, and beautiful snow on Ruahine summits. The sun was there to greet us too! Some strange deer skeleton heads were on the way as well.

We headed South East to the 662 point, and decided to stop for lunchtime at a nice clearing surrounded by bush. Looks like a deer had chosen this spot not so long ago! Some coffee (thank you Tony), a little pie for myself, marmite sandwich for faithful kiwis and some German bread for Franzi. I love to see how diverse each lunchbox can be depending on everybody's culture! Break resumed, we began the famous bush bashing! Holding to the trees to avoid sliding head first on the muddy ground, jumping across little streams, we kept on walking an hour or two in the deep bush.



*Pushing thru the scrub in Hardings Park*

We took a short cut and walked back to Hardings Park loop once more. On our way, we came across successive traps put in place to poison pests such as possums and stoats. These animals keep causing great damage to the native fauna and flora and the traps are there to get rid of them as much as possible. Finally, we joined the car park after about 6 hours of tramping.

What a nice little expedition! Thank you all for this lovely moment spent in your company. I'd like to thank the PNTMC members, Terry Crippen, Tony Gates, Janet Wilson, Martin Lawrence, Woody Lee, Doug Strachan and Warren Wheeler. Learning more about pepper bush, the history of the mines etc was a nice experience! Thank you Franzi, Barbara and Peter for your nice conversations, I really have to learn German now! And finally, thank you Laura for having helped me to contact the club. I hope you'll get better!

## Poetry Corner

**Pig Hunter Matt Wolfsbauer  
By TJ Bennett, 22 April 1922**

*Away up number four  
By the Kahuterawa Stream  
There lives a happy little man  
Whose face with joy does beam.*

*If you see him in his Sunday best  
Or when storms are raging wild  
Or see him in his working togs  
He's as happy as a child.*

*When he goes to the top place  
To see the sheep or muster  
If he should spot a wild pig  
I've been told that he's all bluster.*

*He quite forgets his age  
And gets up speed and sails  
And woe betide Mr pig  
If he gets him by the tail.*

*When he is in close quarters  
He never seems to fear  
if he should pull the tail off  
He grabs him by the ear.*

*And when he gets him on the ground  
His work is not yet done  
He never brought his sticking knife  
And his boy has got the gun.*

*He shoves his hand into his pocket  
Pulls out his "backy" knife  
I sympathise with piggy  
For the next half hour of his life.*

*The knife is jolly blunt  
Will scarcely scratch the skin  
It's only fit for butter  
When it is melted thin.*

*He never says "give up"  
He tries and tries again  
Until the piggy dies  
Cause he doesn't like the pain.*

*Now things again are normal  
He is ready to laugh and joke  
He sits right down on piggy's back  
And has a well earned smoke.*

## More Trip Reports

9 July 2011

### Sunrise Hut

Report and photo by Amy Overington

Not being a club member, but always keen to get out and about, I and several workmates were keen when Woody told us he would be leading an easy tramp to Sunrise Hut in the Ruahine Ranges.

At some stage along the two-hour drive from Palmerston North to Onga Onga, it began pouring with rain, a fact we disregarded until we arrived at the bottom of the track and were faced with the reality of braving the weather. But not to be discouraged, we dressed up warmly and headed off up the hill.

The track itself was a very easy one – a wide, well-maintained path with none of the scrambling over tree-roots to which most trampers are accustomed. Despite the rain, the track had surprisingly few muddy patches. Various signposts were dotted along the way, describing interesting features of the flora and fauna.

By the time we reached the turnoff about half-way up, the driving rain had still not let up, and we considered cutting our tramp short and going on a sightseeing tour of Hawkes Bay instead. However, the majority decision was to continue through the rain, on the principle that we were already wet and couldn't get much wetter! And we were glad we did continue, because shortly later the rain began to ease and patches of snow began appearing at the sides of the track, becoming larger and larger as we went higher, until eventually all the ground was covered.



*PNTMC sheltering inside Sunrise Hut.*

Around that time, two hours after beginning, Sunrise Hut appeared ahead of us and we gratefully went in for lunch. We were thankful for the gas cookers enabling us to get something

warm inside us, and we crowded around the gas heater, which finally managed to weakly emit a little bit of warmth after several attempts to coax it to start.

After a quick peek at the ridge behind the hut (the howling wind making it very clear why the track beyond was recommended for experienced trampers only), we were glad to get moving again, particularly those of us whose toes were frozen! We headed back down the way we had come, with better views of the countryside than we had on the way up, thanks to the clearing weather.

After the obligatory stop for coffee on the way home, we arrived back in Palmerston North around 6 pm, tired and happy after a fun day trip.

We were Amy Overington, Sara Pacheco, Kendison Liang, Doug Lagerstedt, Richard Lockett and Woody Lee

## Book Review

### Summits and Shadows - Jack Clarke and New Zealand Mountaineering

By Graham Langton (2011).

Published by Steel Roberts Aotearoa.  
\$39.95, 254 pages, soft cover.

Reviewed by Tony Gates

New Zealand mountain history literature is extensive. From Maori mythology about peaks such as Ruapehu and Taranaki, early European explorers, twentieth century greats like John Pascoe and Sir Ed, then to modern day route guides and alpine adventures, there are many wonderful stories recorded in print and film. Historian and author Graham Langton calls this "a magnificent pursuit".

He has done an excellent job of recording the life and exploits of Jack Clarke, who played a vital role in New Zealand mountain history.

Graham Langton revised John Pascoe's classic "Mr Explorer Douglas" in 2004. He has written many articles, and assisted authors, such as Sally Irwin, in her book "Between Heaven and Earth" (2000), about Freda Du Faur.

As soon as I had read most of Langton's latest book, I grabbed a copy of Bob McKerrow's "Ebenezer Teichelman" (2005) (reviewed here August 2005) to check on a different angle to the

story of Clarke's 1911 expedition with Teichelman to the Lambert Glacier, and first ascent on Malcolm Peak. I also burrowed into my own library to check Guy Mannering's two books "The peaks and passes of JRD" (1999), and "The Hermitage years of Mannering and Dixon" (2000), as well as "The Mountains of Erewhon" by TN Beckett (1978). They all have mention of Mountain Guide extraordinaire Jack Clarke.

Christmas 1895 saw Jack Clarke, aged 19, join Tom Fyfe and George Graham on the first successful ascent of Aoraki Mt Cook. Clarke was written into New Zealand mountaineering history with numerous other fine ascents during the early 1900's, many of them to other major virgin peaks such as Aspiring and D'Archiac.

He had a stellar career as Chief Mountain Guide for the Hermitage, as well as being a mountain surveyor, and explorer.

Langton discusses various personal attributes of the main characters on these numerous expeditions, and the obvious discrimination between social classes and sexes.

Other well known mountaineers of the era are mentioned, such as Mattias Zurbriggen, Peter and Alex Graham, Freda Du Faur, Sam Turner, Ebenezer Teichelman, and a young John Pascoe (when Clarke had retired). I am sure that Langton missed nothing about Clarke and

the essential role he played in the development of mountaineering in New Zealand.

There are fifteen chapters in "Summits and Shadows", with numerous black and white photos, some copies of hand written and typed documents, and occasional maps. An introduction, names, numbers, and photographs, and thorough reference notes and index complement the excellent text. Clarke's portrait is reserved for the back page, with a charming colour painting of Aoraki/ Mt Cook on the cover. It's a great story of a great man.

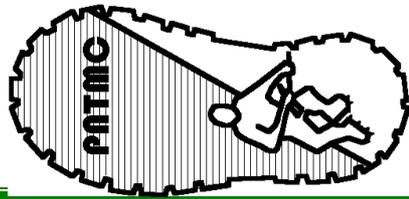


Jack Adamson, Tom Fyfe, Jack Clarke at Mt Cook, March 1894. Only Clarke's face has not been re touched.

## Quote of the month: William Colenso 1841

*The heavy rain and rattling hail which unceasingly poured down. The vivid lightening and hollow sounding thunder reverberating awfully in never ending echoes among the hills, the angry winds that furiously rushed in fitful roaring blasts through the ancient forests, rocking and creaking, and, lashing the monarchs of centuries as so many saplings of a year, stripping their "leafy honours" and cracking off their branches, hurled them to the earth, the hooting of owls and shrieking of parrots, which flew affrightedly about, seeking shelter- all united to declare, in a voice too plain to be misunderstood. The great commotion nature was undergoing- fit knell for the departing year!"*

William Colenso, Waikaremoana, 30 December 1841. This was the first of many of his wilderness journeys.



Palmerston North  
Tramping and  
Mountaineering Club  
Inc.

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

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## PNTMC Newsletter August 2011

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

- *Upcoming trips and club events*
- *Interclub Quiz and Debate coming*
- *FMC Calendars and Video Competition*
- *Te Manawa Exhibition – Te Awa*
- *Trip Reports Mid-Winter Castlepoint, Hardings Park, Sunrise Hutt*
- *Historical Hunters Poetry*
- *Jack Clarke Book Review*

### **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!**

**Sender: PNTMC  
PO Box 1217  
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