

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter October 2011



Warren perched on Bell Rock, Maungaharuru Range summit, Mohaka. [Martin Lawrence]

“Legend has it that when the Takitimu canoe was travelling down the Coast on its way to search for pounamu, a high inland range was seen. The Tohunga took a piece of wood which received life and flew to the top of the range in the form of a bird, carrying the Tohunga’s greeting. The mountain rumbled greetings in return, so came the name Maungaharuru (Maunga- mountain, haruru- rumble).” Sheila Cunningham (1993), “Hawkes Bay for the Happy Wanderer”.

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.

3 October (Monday) Interclub Photo Competition, at the Vet Tower, Massey University (see Notices)

13 October Alpine Peru Daniel Clearwater High Trekking in the Central Andes". Donkeys, Diamox and Dodgey driving in Peru's Huayhuash and Bolivia's Real Ranges.

27 October Walking Access NZ Ric Cullinane from the NZ Walking Access Commission will highlight the issues affecting public access for outdoor recreation.

Upcoming Trips

1 October (Saturday)

Living Legends Planting Day, Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve All

Janet Wilson 329 4722

A chance to join ex All-Black Sam Strahan in a Rugby World Cup spin-off. This community project is coordinated by DoC and involves 2 hours to put 5,000 native plants into pre-dug holes. Bus transport provided.

1-2 Oct

Ketetahi explorer M/ F

Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Depart 7:00am. We drop our gear at Ketetahi Hut at lunchtime and probably spend the afternoon exploring around to Te Mari Craters. On Sunday we will explore higher up on Tongariro, including North Crater and Blue Lake. Crampons and ice axe required.

8-9 Oct

Sayers Hut/ Totara Flats E/ M

Janet Wilson 329 4722

This rustic, if smokey hut, is a favourite of many, set in forest on the expansive Totara Flats, beside the Waiohine River. Depart PN 8:00am.

Note - Janet replaces Tony Gates as leader*.

8 or 9 Oct

Tongariro 12 peaks FE

Mike Archer 027 687 8477

Depart early or camp the night before for this 12 hour grand tour of the 12 peaks on Ruapehu. From Turoa the plan is to climb up to Girdlestone then along the ridge to Tahurangi, then Mitre, Crater Lake rim, Cathedral Rocks, Te Heu Heu, Paretetaitonga, south rim and home. Good experience and equipment required.

15 Oct

Tunupo M/F

Janet Wilson 329 4722

Check out the stoat traps on the way up to Tunupo summit. Enjoy lunch with great views over the Ruahine tops, Oroua Valley and Tongariro National Park in the distance.

16 Oct

Pukaha Mt Bruce Explorer E/ M

Martin Lawrence 357 1695

This is an excellent opportunity to see the new Kiwi House, and maybe the famous wee white kiwi, plus plenty of other native birds, eels and tuatara. Good walking tracks too.

22- 24 Oct (Labour Weekend)

Kaweka Range M

Warren Wheeler 356 1998

We plan to climb from the Lakes carpark up to Kiwi Saddle Hut, over to Kiwi Mouth, and the Ngaruroro River. Return via Back Ridge, the main Kaweka Range, then down "The Rogue". Good views all around this historic area. Depart PN 7:00am.

Note – Warren has replaced Tony as leader*.

24 Oct (Monday)

Field Hut M

Duncan Hedderley 354 6905

8:00am start for the hills behind Otaki Forks. There are some neat views from just above the hut on a good day, and most of the track is in bush, so we would be sheltered on a not-so-good day.

29- 30 Oct

Mitre Flats Hut E/ M

Jo O'Halloran 353 0300

This riverside Tararua bush hut is located in from Masterton, with plenty of interest offered. In via the Barra track, over the new bridge to the hut, then a good spot to climb up to Mitre Peak or continue out via a different track to Holdsworth Lodge on Sunday. Depart 8:00am.

30 Oct

Makahika E/ M

Peter Wiles 358 6894

The Makahika valley lies north and east from Levin, with the Te Araroa Walkway following it to the Mangahao Valley. Despite previous logging, there is some good forest here, and views of the north western Tararuas.

5- 6 November

TBA

Graham Peters 329 4722

Contact Graham to see what he has come up with to replace the Somes/Matiu Island trip that had to be cancelled due to all accommodation (even camping) being booked already.

6 Nov

Moorcock Longview Hut M

Dave Grant 357 8269

A classic and popular Southern Hawkes Bay/ Ruahine tramp with great views and variety of scenery. Bring a good water bottle.

* Tony Gates is currently in hospital with complications from a chest infection and is unable to lead the trips as previously advertised – Get Well Soon, Tony.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trampers 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 20th of each month to Tony Gates, the newsletter editor, at kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz, or via <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>

Notices

Interclub Quiz 2011 - Results

MUAC used Facebook to raise two large and sometimes noisy teams to compete against the stalwart MTSC and PNTMC teams. Janet Wilson's expert questions and Graham Peter's assistance guided the competitors through a variety of interesting and relevant subjects. A few scratchy native plants were produced for identification, some hut photographs, and several questions that could only really be answered with a guess. More than a few humorous answers resulted in some half points

being awarded. Out of a total 75 points, the results were;

Team Friendly Spoons	MUAC	13 points
Team Yeti	MUAC	26
Team Primo	PNTMC	29
Team Mana	MTSC	38
Team Tararua	PNTMC	54

So PNTMC once again obtains the Trevor Bissell Memorial Billy. This is on display at Bivouac, above the counter and beside the beautiful "boot and rock" trophy for the Great Debate.

PNTMC Auction 2011 - Report

There was no such thing as "junk for sale" at our annual auction held on 8 September, and that's the truth. And there were no left over's from last year - that's the truth too. Under Warren's expert and encouraging words, kitchenware, clothing, and literature went under the hammer. Bargains featured some excellent billies and pots, brand new trousers of perfect? fit, and a selection of used (I mean pre loved) tramping sox. PNTMC made \$124.00.

Interclub Debate 26 September

Supporters and participants gathered on Monday 26 September at the Vet Block lecture theatre for a MUAC club night with a difference - a Great Debate. This being a club night it was interesting to see how the coming trips were presented using Powerpoint - perhaps something we could do as well.

With a toss of a Credit Card the PNTMC team of Anne, Warren and Graham was given the Affirmative side of the "serious" debate topic "That Doc has lost the Plot". Both 3-person teams from MUAC and PNTMC had already been given a week to consider both sides of the two topics and another 10 minutes were allowed to sort out their designated side of their debate. This was handily done in the vacant lounge-study foyer outside the lecture theatre.

Our first Affirmative speaker was followed by the first Negative and so on to the second and third speakers alternately. Our adjudicator for the night was Dave Grant who did a sterling job on short notice. His deeply intoned time signal warning of "Three minutes" was spookily unsettling to some of the MUAC speakers, but they recovered well all the same. Points were allocated for each speaker by consensus audience vote after the teams left the theatre to sort out their strategy for the next debate.

This time a coin toss allocated the Affirmative again to PNTMC for the "humorous" topic "That Happy Feet should be a national icon". Despite considered and convincing arguments (lashed

with dollops of humour) on both topics the Affirmative in both cases was relegated to second place with the overall score being 27 to PNTMC and 32 to MUAC. Our novice team rose bravely to the challenge and was ably anchored by veteran Graham but humbly conceded that the best team won. So it is MUAC who will have their name engraved on the Old Boot Trophy, making it 12 to them and 13 times to us. We look forward to another challenging and fun night next year.

Monday 3 October Interclub Photo Competition

MUAC will be holding the interclub photo competition and prize giving on Monday 3 October, during their usual meeting time (7:00pm in ICLT lecture theatre, ground floor of the vet tower). Look out for the results in our November newsletter.

PNTMC Tramping Photos at Library

Eric Lui put together a great display of mounted photos to promote the club at the PN City Library. The display was for two weeks ending 2 October and vividly presented the full range of club activities. The great success of this display was evident by the rate the flyers disappeared – well done Eric and others who contributed images.

Tuesday 18 October Bivoauc Clubs Night

Come along to Bivouac's clubs night 6pm- 8pm. Nibbles and drinks will be provided and specials and discounts available on their range of outdoor goods - a must to stock up on pre-season gear.

Whats Up, DoC?

DoC Photo Competition Winner

Congratulations to Martin Lawrence for his winning shot of happy trampers swinging from the balcony beam at Ngamoko Hut. A very worthy recipient for DoC's Conservation Week competition for someone celebrating showing their love for 'Natural New Zealand'.

Adopt-a-Hut

DoC is looking for organisations to help look after a number of less frequently used huts in the Ruahine Ranges. Andrew Mercer came along to the last Committee meeting to tell us more about the proposals. Huts affected include Otukota,

Maropea Forks, Ngamoko and two or three others.

DoC is also looking to remove the bridge across to Mid-Pohangina Hut, which recently failed a safety inspection.

These are disturbing developments related to cost-cutting required by DoC. The Committee will be considering this further, with a view perhaps of looking after Ngamoko Hut. Early days yet, but contact a Committee member to let us know your views, check out the monthly local DoC Newsletter Keep on Tracking or contact DoC directly for more information.

Tararua News

DoC have advised that the Waitewaewae Hut swingbridge has been closed for a few weeks for repairs. Care is therefore required when crossing the Otaki River.

The track from Tutawai Hut to the Tauherinikau River has been washed out. There are other old tracks available for use there.

Powell Hut Booking

Powell Hut Summer Booking System

Please note, Powell Hut is now bookable for the summer season. Details can be found on the DOC website, eg Powell Hut profile page, Mt Holdsworth - Jumbo circuit places to stay info, etc.

The Mt Holdsworth - Jumbo circuit is very popular, and with the influx of trampers over the summer season the Wairarapa Area Office wants to offer a better service by making Powell Hut bookable from 1 November 2011 to 28 February 2012.

Booking details

All parties will be expected to book from November through to February.

Bookings are made for individual bunks.

Fees will remain the same: \$15 for adults (18+) and \$5 for youth (11-17).

An additional \$5 to \$10 management fee will apply depending on party size.

There will be a warden on-site for the duration of the booking period to manage the booking system.

Unallocated bunks will still be available to trampers that haven't booked.

The hut will remain open (not locked).

Backcountry hut pass holders

The only charge backcountry hut pass holders incur is the management fee for their party.

How to book

Call the DOC Wairarapa Office, ph +64 6 377 0700 or book in person at 220 South Road, Masterton.

Membership

The club welcomes applications from any non-members who have gone on at least two club trips.

Simply contact a trip leader and come tramping !

Trip Reports

13-14th August

Boundary Stream

Report and Photo - Martin Lawrence

It was surprisingly foggy in Napier on Saturday morning as the Palmy group of Warren, Ray and Martin met up with Richard and Anne at Anne's motel. We enjoyed the drive North to Lake Tutira and were soon in sunshine. We turned at left the Tutira store and were soon at the Tutira Lodge which was to be the night's accommodation. The hosts, Nick and Jules were most welcoming as we dropped our stuff and put on tramping gear.

Taking care not to run over any of Nick's piglets, chooks, or miniature ponies, we drove a little further up Pohokura Road to the beginning of the Bell Rock Loop Track. This is rated a 3 hour walk by DOC which actually gives plenty of time for listening for the birds, checking out the numerous weta "houses" and enjoying the excellent views from Bell Rock itself. Bell Rock is part of an escarpment overlooking the Mohaka River and the Kaimanawas to the East. Facing back the way we had come, there was a little cloud, but we made out Mahia Peninsula and Cape Kidnappers at the far end of Hawkes Bay.

The rocks were irresistible to clamber over, and many photos were taken of perching people on pointy precipices. There was an excellent flat spot with surprisingly little wind – excellent for lunch for those of us that had remembered to pack of our lunch at the lodge.



Bell Rock, Maungaharuru Range.

We looped back to the car park and had plenty of time to stop at two more short walks. We saw more weta apartments, mostly very well populated and a few fenced off kaka beak plants, which grow naturally here. These shorter walks did seem to be popular and we left just after a group of families in 10 cars had arrived. The day was getting cooler as we arrived back at the lodge to see that Jules had the fire going and roast pork in the oven – definitely not normal tramping accommodation.

Sunday morning was very pleasant and there was a deal of conversation about the approaching snow storms, which certainly seemed a way off. The after a pleasant 3 hour Bellbird Track loop we stopped at the predator fenced kiwi breeding enclosure and did the ½ hour circuit of the small lake there. The last walk was to be Shine Falls. Rather than take the 5 hour Kamihi track from Boundary Stream we drove around to the Heays Road entrance. From the car park there is a short walk on a well formed track to the falls. At 58m high these are the tallest falls in the Hawkes Bay and are pretty impressive. With great timing we had time for lunch and a few photos before the first of the promised rain fall.

Sunday 21 August 2011

Pukerua Bay-Plimmerton Coastal Walk Report and photo - Nicola Wallace

The day started off cloudy in Palmy, but the cloud cleared on the way south, and Pukerua Bay was completely clear. Martin parked us at the dairy at the top of the hill, and we left the car at 9.30am. We soon sighted Tessa, Anne's daughter, who lives in Titahi Bay and was joining us for the day. After a short walk through suburban streets, we headed off down "The Goat Track" to the sea. It was much better than your average goat track. We made a pit stop at the toilets at the bottom – the womens' was fine, the mens' not so, so Warren did a clean up job.

Good on you Warren! Then off round the coast we started.

Initially there was a well worn path, and also traps, and further on, a chain gate as we were in a pest controlled area. Many and varied rock formations characterised this part of the coast – a magnificent rock archway, and further along, a cave in the rocky cliff, with a dead and none-too fresh seal outside.

Although it was a beautiful day, it was readily apparent what a harsh environment this is for living things. Dead prions were encountered every few feet, lying spread eagled on the stones as though they'd been dashed against the shore mid flight. What trees there were had a lot of "westerly lean", and of course there was the dead seal. Much well worn driftwood was piled up high on the shore.

The walking environment was constantly changing. A walking surface of smooth, rounded stones would suddenly change to large, angular rocks, then to small stones that required more walking effort, and would spray up into your boots. At an appropriate time we stopped for morning tea. On a driftwood log, I sat next to Tony who ate a very appetising looking piece of pizza, more about this later. Apart from looking at the beautiful blue sea, there was no shortage of entertainment, flies by the thousand landing on dead seaweed, two pipits who came for a visit, and a TV lying face down on the stones.

As we rounded a bend, passing the half way mark, it was evident that we'd soon be approaching civilisation (or leaving it, depending on your point of view). We now walked on an unsealed road, with wind turbines seen in the distance. It was a wide road, pocked with puddles. I stopped to photograph the rugged and rocky looking Mana Island, and the others went ahead. Further on, near Plimmerton, I found them stopped, staring at a seal about 50 metres offshore, lying with a flipper sticking up. There was much discussion as to whether it was sunbathing/unwell/dead. No firm conclusion was drawn. It was almost cold here because it was shady, and we pressed on to Plimmerton's outskirts, and lunch in the sun by the sea. Aah...time to empty out those little stones from my boots. I checked out the water – surprisingly warm.

After lunch, we headed off past the boat club, and hundreds of Wellingtonians out enjoying this lovely sunny day. Then up Cluny St, very warm, had to remove layers, then in to a bush reserve with much kawakawa. Then up and up very well formed steps interspersed with flat bits. They

took us uphill quickly and easily to a sealed road called "The Track". From this high, semi rural road we had great views of the whole North Wellington area. After continuing uphill, the road ended at the beginning of the Tawa Tapu Track, which follows part of the historical Maori route between Plimmerton and Pukerua Bay. Downhill now, past horses and the odd yapping dog on the other side of the fence. The track was marked with dark blue poles which were quite inconspicuous, and in places, it wouldn't be too hard to take the wrong path and tread on someone's property.



Tawa Tapu Track, Plimmerton. SH 1 and Railway line visibleTR.

We were gradually coming closer to SH1, with increasing traffic noise. Then suddenly we came to Airlie Road, and the end of the track. Walking downhill on Airlie Road, we went over a very cool old wooden bridge, over the railway lines. One side of the bridge was covered in orange fungus. It would have been perfect if a train had come along under the bridge, but sadly none did.

Next past the Whenua Tapu cemetery, and on to the Ara Harakeke Pathway, a sealed bike/walking track. It was now 2.2km back to Pukerua Bay, the last bit an easy climb. Sealed surfaces are hard on the feet when you're wearing tramping boots! But that last 2.2km went quickly.

We got back to the car at 2pm. We had walked probably about 15km, and we deservedly treated ourselves at the busy Pukerua Bay dairy. We left Tessa at the dairy, as her husband was coming to pick her up, and in to the car and off we went.

Near Parapapaumu, Tony, the front passenger, asked Martin to pull over, as he was feeling very unwell – very tired and faint. After getting out in the cool air for a couple of minutes, Tony didn't feel any better, but he got back in and we carried on. A couple more stops were made as Tony

battled bravely on, but felt increasingly worse. At Ohau, he requested an immediate stop before rapidly ejecting the cause of the sickness on to the roadside grass. It looked very much like pizza! Ah ha, bacterial toxin food poisoning was the most likely diagnosis. Tony felt much better after this, and really was bearing this nasty illness in admirably staunch fashion. It was good to see the colour return to his face. Only one more stop was made, in Old West Road, and we delivered Tony home with instructions to drink plenty. At least he got to finish the walk before this awful sickness came on.

This was a very enjoyable walk on such a lovely day that I forgot it was winter. Having said that, it's a walk that could be done in almost any weather, as long as the tide's out. Many thanks to everyone for a great day.

We were: Tony Gates, Tessa Young, Anne & Martin Lawrence, Warren Wheeler and Nicola Wallace.

**August 28th 2011
Inaugural A-Frame all women expedition
Report - Anja Scholz, photo - Tina Bishop**

With a leisurely 8am start, Tina and dog Holly, newcomer Karen, and me were off via the Saddle Road to the Eastern side of the Ruahines – a wise choice, because the sun and views stayed on that side and made for a pleasant temperature while climbing. There were a few cars at the Tamaki road end, but we only encountered one hunter plus dog.



Holly, Anja, and Karen on the track to Takapari Road. Where is the mud?

The track up to the Takapari Road was the driest I have encountered it so far, but it also seemed to have got a bit steeper than I remembered in places. I had advertised the track to Karen as a good introductory tramp to the area – close to 800m altitude gain, some roots and rocks and

steeper bits to step up on, possibly mud and wet feet – all the ingredients of Ruahine or Tararua tramping, but at a moderate degree and length.

After two hours of climbing we reached the 4wheel drive track, and encountered the last patch of snow in a hollow – it was “you tube” material to see Holly get excited and frisk about in the snow! The A-Frame Hut was its usual grotty self, but still a good shelter for lunch, as it did cool down when we stopped, and some cloud wallowed over from the West. Still, the views over the Hawke's Bay were expansive and well worth the effort, sun poking out from the cloud here and there. Looking at the time we decided to do a leisurely drop back to the carpark rather than the longer loop via Stanfield which might have taken us close to dusk, so descended the same way.

While scenery, views and wildlife were duly noted and commented upon, the all women makeup of our tramping posse made for some other interesting conversation which was markedly different from other tramps I have been

on. Suffice to say, *human reproductive biology in its sociological and economic context featured to a large extent, with recourse to interesting comparative human / animal / plant visual and olfactory similarities and behaviouristically challenging intergender communicative processes.*

There is probably scope for a PhD in comparative gender generated topical discussion of all male (what DO they talk about? Do they talk at all?) and all female tramping parties, but mostly we had a lot of fun chatting ☺.

On a steep little downhill bit Karen's branch-hold decided to give way, and knock her on the head which resulted in a bit of first aid training revision. Thankfully she was unhurt, unconcussed, and unfazed, and carried on in good spirits.

We got back to the car, and were even able to go back taking the gorge road which had opened for a brief time as a one lane road. Thanks for a fun walk and fun talk to Karen Tutt, Tina Bishop and Holly (no talking). Trip leader was Anja Scholz.

3- 4 September 2011
Ngamoko Range and Hut
Report - Annette Patzold
Photos - Martin Lawrence

There were six of us getting out of the cars at the DOC car park off Limestone Road at around 9 am Saturday Morning. It took about three hours to reach the tops via Shorts Track. We had lunch and enjoyed a nice view across Hawkes Bay and sea in the background. Then we continued along the ridge southwards avoiding the exposed (windy) parts until the sign post indicating the track down to Ngamoko Hut, where we arrived at half past four in the afternoon.



Craig, Michael, and Annette (top), with Janet and Anne tramping the Ngamoko Range, Western Ruahines. Note pleasant spring weather, great views, and happy trampers.

The track down to the hut was very steep and with tree fall from recent snow gave us a chance to practice some climbing moves. Both tracks, Shorts and Knights, are not as steep and easier to use.

The hut is well insulated and warmed up very quickly. With six bunks it was just the right size for our tramping party. So we could enjoy a nice evening/dinner that also included some red wine (from a genuine glass bottle). Our only disappointment was at the lack of blue duck

sightings. The following day we left the hut at around half past 8 in the morning and arrived at the tops again about half past 10, from where we re-traced our steps from the day before, aiming for Toka peak.

We met Bruce who was out for a Sunday walk, and around 1 pm we finished lunch and continued towards the peak, leaving our packs at Knights Track crossing. Being higher up now there was more snow. There had also been less wind all day. The top offered some awesome views, wet snow for bum sliding and just enough snow for a nice snow fight (that I had started allegedly). All of it made the stay at tops a pleasant experience and people only reluctantly made their way back down towards the road end which we reached around five pm.

We were: Craig Allerby (trip leader), Michael Allerby, Janet Wilson, Annett Patzold, Martin and Anne Lawrence

3 September
Ngauruhoe climb
Report - Peter Chamberlain

The day brought fantastic conditions and great company for a classic climb. Warren and I set out from P North at 5.00 am to meet 3 others at the Mangatepopo road end car park. This was obviously too early for me as a lapse in driving concentration managed to light up the sky with a mighty flash. I'm now waiting for the mail and the inevitable speed camera fine in the post. As you can imagine my good wife is happy with me.

Once the forced government donation was forgotten, everything went well for the rest of the trip. We met 3 others from the NZAC with almost military precision right on the planned 8.00 am. We then made our way to the base of Mount Ngauruhoe.

At the base we trudged up at our own individual pace to meet on the top. There was definitely a range of speeds from Elliot who almost ran up, to the rest of us who enjoyed a steady crawl. At the top we began the first stage of building a snow cave. Once again, Elliot's fitness came through as he committed himself to the task of piling up snow. Then it was off for a tour around the crater rim where we took many photos. I especially enjoyed the clouds as they rolled round the mountain just below us.

Once back at the snow cave construction site, Elliot tunnelled while others helped remove the snow. In the end it wasn't a perfect cave but definitely a good beginning and very educational

for me to see how to go about the process.
Thanks Elliot.



A spot of ice climbing on crater rim outcrop.

Then it was off and down to the bottom. The thin layer of snow on an icy base made for a very controlled and exciting ride. It was so smooth, it was possible to sit back and enjoy the view while sliding. 2 hours up and 10 minutes down, madness really. Anyway, we soon found our way back to the car park and headed off on our various ways. I certainly was watching the speed on the way home. It was a great day. Thanks team.

We were, Pete and Warren (PNTMC), Elliot, Isaac, and Simon (NZAC)

10 September 2011 Foxton Beach- Manawatu Estuary Report and photo - Tony Gates

Pleasant spring weather gave us another enjoyable coastal stroll, this time to Foxton beach and estuary. It was Graham's first tramp for a few months, and one of Holly's regular daily and very social walks. There was some fascinating sand dune scenery along the easy trail, then the popular beach, shared with various vehicles, dogs, fishermen, boaties, and walkers.

We walked mainly north from town on a quad bike trail winding between the dunes and pines.



Tramping the Foxton Beach dunes. Note how happy "Holly" is.

Sambar deer hoof marks and off road vehicle tracks were evident, and the incessant roar of the sea. Some ten years ago, Warren, Janet, Yvette, and I were involved in a successful SAR for a lost man in this area. We felt that we (almost) recognised the place where he was found, despite the thousands of similar sand dunes and grassy hollows. It was about the right distance, 2 KM north from the Surf Life Saving Club car park and 1 KM inland.

Once on the main beach, it all looked the same! Haze obliterated our view of town as we strolled back south. It didn't take long, and we were back with the crowds on the beach, much to Holly's delight. She ran free and fast.

Lunch back at "Bishop's Hut" was a fairly luxurious affair, with oven hot pumpkin and chive bread, slow cooked garlic dahl lentils served with organic steamed rice, well rounded off with fresh ground coffee and muffins (carrot and walnut, also mixed berry with cream cheese flavour). We returned somewhat reluctantly to the game of tramping. We joined the crowds at low tide at the Manawatu River mouth, with some family groups in swimming. The beach was a popular spot for vehicles, fishermen, walkers, and a few canine companions for Holly. We ambled for a while along the coastal/ riverside walkway beside the estuary bird sanctuary, then back home for more coffee and muffins via Holben park to complete a very satisfactory day.

We were; Graham Peters, Warren Wheeler, Tony Gates, Richard Lockett, Anja Scholz, Tina Bishop, and "Holly"

Pohangina Storm

by Toxic Dave

November 1985.

From the Leon Kinvig Hut log book

*Clouds race overhead
Onwards, to some unseen battle
Raging outriders before their master
Sent to weaken and warn*

*The trees bend against their wills
Or are they merely dancing
As if in drunken revelry*

*Soon, the rain will come
Taking with it the bird song
Replacing the chorus with howls
Lifting spray from the river*

*Driving me inside
Sanctuary!
But for the moment I stand
Breathing deep the cool wind
As the first droplets
Caress my face*

*Knowing this storm would like
To capture me
And hold me to its icy bosom
Like a dead lover*

*But I have been there before
And so turn, walk away
To the warmth of my fire*

*The storm
Like the sorrow and pain
Of a forgotten year
Will pass*

*My mind, clinging only to days
Of sunshine and lightheartedness
lonely
Lonely storms searching
Whilst we hide away.*

huts at elevations of 1800m to 2200m, passes of about 2800m to 3000m, and glaciers on the slopes of peaks up to 3500m. With plenty of steep ups and downs, we planned to do part of the circuit and climb a few peaks en route.

Train, private train and bus from Innsbruck got us to Schlegeisspeicher (Schlegeis Reservoir) at 1800m for an easy afternoon walk up valley to Furtschalgshaus at 2293m. This hut and most of the others in the area are DAV (German Alpine Club) huts even though we are in Austria; the DAV and Austrian (OEAV) Alpine Clubs being one organisation up till relatively recently. Trampers and climbers from NZ soon realize there is a BIG difference in tramping in NZ and in Europe – In Europe most huts are supplied with duvets/ blankets/ electricity/ flush toilets/ hot showers and of course all the food and drink you want (at a price). So ones packs can be minimal in weight. Belonging to the DAV or OEAV is an advantage for cheap hut rates (or NZAC, in the off seasons). Tracks are well maintained and numbered. We started off doing the “502”, good views of the north facing glaciers in late summer surrounded us, with Italy just over the skyline.



Berliner Hutte, Zillatal Tux Alps

The second day we passed over Schonbichler Scharte (pass) at 3081m to Berliner Hutte with a steep scramble onto Schonbichler Horne at 3133m. Any section of track that was steep is typically hand-railed with a wire rope and the occasional spike, but descents could still be tricky in rain or snow! Berliner Hutte (the first parts of it built in the 1879!) sleeps about 180, and its foyer and dining room look like a grand (but 1800s) hotel! Us NZer's, doing things on the cheap cooked and prepared our own food, but would partake in the occasional ½ litre of Radler (beer/ lemonade, the real stuff, – not the NZ breweries copywrited stuff thank you!) and minor purchased indulgences. Other fellow trampers (not a term people are familiar with over here – tramping means hitchhiking) tended

Travels with Terry and Angela

**Rockfall in the Zillertal Alps, Austria,
September 2011.**

By Terry Crippen

The Zillertal (Ziller Valley) and adjacent Alps, southeast of Innsbruck, are an excellent intro to the European Alps. The Berliner Hohenweg is a high level circuit one can do, up to 8 days with

to be mainly German, Austrian, some Dutch, and rare Canadians and USA folks.

The following day was mist and light rain, but we set off to have a half hearted attempt at climbing Schwarzerstein (3368m), which would necessitate some glacier travel. This was going to be tricky with minimal visibility and no rope (just crampons and ice axes). With fine wx it would have been OK as the glacier was mainly white ice and also the crevasses were fortunately quite open. But the wx turned to cold rain and zero visibility just before the ice so it was back to Berlinerhutte for the afternoon. Overnight it snowed; with all the peaks now white and the glacier freshly coated, so it wasn't a good idea to have another attempt at Schwarzerstein. So it was off to Greizerhutte in the next valley. The number of fellow trampers had now dropped off considerably since we were in the middle section of the Berliner Hohenweg and it was mid week.

We now ascended to Morchenscharte (2872m) and started our descent into the next valley. Things now started to get lively (to say the least)! The zigzag descent track became the firing line for the collapsing face of the adjacent peak!

A continuous volley of rock fall began. A couple of lads further down the descent had a lucky escape. The two of us along with others rapidly backtracked and watched this light and sound show. Just as we thought things had settled down another collapse would take place!

We watched this for about an hour. There was a collection of walkers accumulating at the saddle and down valley beyond the debris. Eventually all concerned retreated the way they had come to leave the mountain to do its thing. (We have never seen such a continuous large rock fall in NZ – where the Southern Alps are meant to be far less stable).

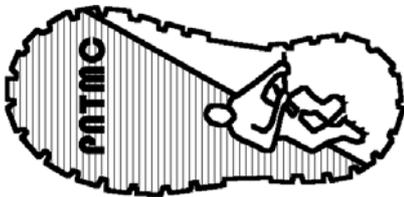
A change of plans now for us since our planned route was out of consideration; losing a bit of height we traversed across rock shelves and (stable) rock fall to another saddle

(Melkerscharte) at the head of a smaller side valley that would exit us down into the Zillatal, cutting short our circuit. We scrambled up yet another minor rocky knob, Plattenkopt, as a consolation prize. We also found a wallet belonging to other rockfall escapees on the saddle – this find was to prove interesting once we got back to civilization. The descent off the saddle into the alternative valley was not for the “faint hearted” – even though it was a numbered trail (the “522”). A very steep zig-zag, good job most of the snow had melted. Just before the valley floor it was like being back in the Southern Alps, we lost the path so it was good rough boulder hop down the stream for a time before we were in the alpine pasture, complete with sheep and cows and their bells. A long walk out to the village of Ginzling and a successful hunt for a zimmer in a guest house finished what was an exciting day.

The pleasure of a German/Austrian fruhstuck (breakfast) greeted us in the morning before catching the bus down to Mayrhofen and off to the local police station to hand in the wallet. Plenty of paper work was undertaken as a result of the find and (very nice thank you) it's official practice in Austria; the finder gets 10% of any cash found with lost property. So we were able to have one of our rare restaurant meals that night (plus a couple of radlers), to the delightful sound of live Tyrolean music and not feel we were blowing our budget too much. A day of rest and being tourists was then undertaken before heading back into the mountains for more adventures. Our maps are certainly starting to need some cellotaping up now!



Zillatal Tux Alps



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PNTMC Newsletter October 2011

What's inside this month?

- *Trip Reports on Boundary Stream, Coastal Walks, Inaugural All-women A-Frame Trip, Ngamoko, Ngauruhoe*
- *Interclub Quiz and Debate Results*
- *Adopt-a-Hut and other Doc News*
- *Davey Hughes Poetry*
- *Letter from European Alps*

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!

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