



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

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P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

## Newsletter, April 2003

"not even a toothpick left for firewood (1962)"

"came right after about one gallon of decent tea".

"Born in Auckland 1940, now making a bloody living shooting the rough Ruahines (1960)".

"It's raining, it's pouring, his reminds me of the Tararuas, only thing different is a much cleaner and comfortable hut to stay in here (1975)".

*Extracts from the old Shutes Hut Log Book.*

### Presidents AGM Report.

#### Trip Reports.

Pouakai Hut

Te Hekenga- Howletts, Iron Gates, Coppermine Creek, Waitewaiwai, Sunrise Hut.  
Terry's "Who did what"list

### CLUB NIGHTS

April 10	BYO slides and prints	PNTMC
April 24	Rescue Helicopter	
May 1	Committee Meeting	Dave's place.
May 8	Climbing at Fox Glacier	John Barnes
May 29	Glow worms, and at the Waterford	
June 5	Committee Meeting.	
June 12	Video Evening	

Club nights are held for all club members and visitors on the second and last Thursday of each month at the **Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North**. All club nights commence at 7:45 pm **sharp**, winter or summer. The PNTMC Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month.

At the club night: Please sign your name in the visitors book. A 50c door fee includes supper.

## **UP AND COMING TRIPS & EVENTS**

## Trip Grades

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially the weather. A reasonably proficient trumper can be expected to do the trips in the following times: Easy (E): 3-4 hrs, Medium (M): 5-6 hrs, Fit (F): about 8 hrs, Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs. T refers to technical trips requiring special skills.

April 12 (Sat) Blyth Hut, TNP  
Mary Craw 06 322 8665

This hut is located on the scenic Mt Ruapehu bushline, up from Ohakune. Good tracks.

Hill country farmland (mostly on tracks) walk, 24 km long, slight climb at start, top 800 metres, then gently descend a major ridge. Good views of surrounding hill country and bush.

April 18- 22. Easter trip to Heaphy track,  
Kahurangi National Park.

Barry and Christine Scott will be leading a trip over the Heaphy track at Easter. The plan at present is to fly Origin from Palmerston North to Nelson (Fri 18th) and return on Wed 23rd. Travel will then be from Nelson to the Collingwood road end the afternoon of Friday 18th April, to spend 4 days on the track, coming out at Karamea Tuesday 22 April. We plan to arrange a shuttle from Karamea to Nelson for Wednesday morning of 23rd of April - quote still to be obtained.

If you wish to join this trip you have the option of either flying or making your way by other means to Nelson, but you must arrive in Nelson by early afternoon of Fri 18th. Flights with Origin will fill up rapidly so book early. Close off date for this trip is 16th March.

Barry & Christine Scott, 06 354 0510 (after 7 pm)  
d.b.scott@massey.ac.nz,c.a.scott@massey.ac.nz

April 23-27, ANZAC Weekend  
Nelson Lakes climbing. F, T Terry Crippen 3563-588

This follows directly on from Barry's Heaphy track trip, for those that want to do both. On Wednesday (23rd) drive/arrive at St Arnaud and head into Cupola basin for the next few days. Various climbing possibilites on Mt Cupola and others. I will be taking a vehicle down on Thurs 17 April (5:30pm sailing) to meet up with Barry, if you dont want to fly. Or you can meet us at St Arnaud Wednesday afternoon. Returning Sunday 27 April 6pm sailing. Let me know asap if interested.

**April 24 Club Night**

# Rescue Helicopter

Meet at the Rescue Helicopter Hangar at the PN Hospital, 7.45pm. Use the main entrance off Ruahine St closest to Tremaine Ave, the hangar is by the wind sock. We will be introduced to the Rescue chopper and learn what to expect if we need to be rescued. Contact Warren 356-1998.

April 25- 27 Oturere, TNP M  
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

In from the Desert Road, to a very nice hut. Easy, flat track, with spectacular landscapes. Depart 7.00am. In from the Desert Road, visiting Ohinepango Springs and the historic Waihohonu Hut, before heading northwards to stay at Oturere Hut. Next day we will explore the volcanic landscape around the Oturere Crater, including a circuit around the crater rim past Blue Lake, Emerald Lakes, and Red Crater. Sunday return by the track, or cross country, to the Desert Road.

## **May 1 Committee Meeting, at Dave Grants'.**

May 3- 4 Roaring Stag E  
Malcolm Parker 357 5203  
A good local place, with some of the best of  
Teraru forest to enjoy, from an easy track.

May 4 Diggers Hut M  
Mick Leyland 358 3183

This is one of Mick's traditional day tramps, into the forest and creeks of the southern Ruahines. Plenty of scrub and mud, but also plenty of delightful scenery and countryside.

**May 8                  Club Night.  
Climbing at Fox Glacier, with John Barnes.**

May 10- 11      Mangahao Flats Hut      M  
                    Richard Lockett      323 0948  
A sometimes muddy tramp up the forested  
Mangahao Valley, behind Shannon, takes you to  
this lovely riverside DOC hut.

May 11 TBA  
Peter Wiles 358 6894

May 16- 17- 18 Ruahine Corner M/ F  
Llew Pritchard 358 2217

This has got to be one of the most scenic Ruahine areas and coziest huts, with vast tussock flats, primeval kawaka forest, beech forest, leatherwood, spectacular erosion, and some very interesting, if slightly strenuous ways, to get there. I'm sure that Llew will look after you.

May 18 Pohangina Walkways E  
Duncan Hedderley 355 1820

Still haven't decided where to go with this (Beehive Creek? Fern Walk and Old Coach Roaed?), but reckon I'll aim for a 8.30 start (Why make a drama out of a day trip?) There is plenty of local variety here, and some good café's to visit afterwards for those so inclined.

May 24- 25      Powell- Holdsworth                          E  
Elaine Herv    354 2499

Overnight to Powell Hut. The track is well maintained, making it an easy uphill. Some options and alternate routes can be considered.

May 25            Tunupo    M/ F  
Graham Peters    329 4722

This tussock crag is located close to the town of Apiti, and commands a fine viewpoint of the Manawatu plains and the Ruahine Ranges. There might be snow up there, so come prepared.

### **May 29 Club Night. Glow worms & the Waterford.**

May 31- June 2 (approx) (Queens Birthday)    E/ M  
Janet Wilson    329 4722

Abel Tasman NP. A coastal stroll along a nice track, concentrating on the northern end. Good huts and beaches. Early expressions of interest required, to assist with transport arrangements.

June 1            Kahuterawa investigations    M/ F  
Terry Crippen    356 3588

### **June 5            Committee Meeting**

June 7- 8           Tararua Crossing                                  F  
Andrew Lynch    325 8779  
Tramp the Dress Circle of the southern Tararuas, in via Renata, through to Alpha, Mt Hector, then Otaki Forks. Come prepared for winter snows.

June 8            Sunrise Hut    E  
Heike Hahn    354 8829  
A wonderful spot.

### **June 12           Club Night. Video Evening.**

June 14- 15           Egmont NP    M  
Elaine Herve    354 2499  
The plan is to overnight Saturday at Matakanā Hut. The weather will help us decide the options of two tracks, the alpine or Curtis Falls. Some steep climbs, but plenty of variety.

June 21- 22           Mid-winter celebrations, for all Kawhatau Base, DOC. Depart 7.30am to see the return of our Mid-Winter Fest - including the infamous Mid-winter Dip on Sunday morning. On Saturday we will check out the ice thickness on the tarn at Colenso Trig (Easy, but steep) before the Feast. Camping is an option, but the house accommodates 12 comfortably and has its own generator. Contact Warren, 356-1998.

Trip participants: If you are interested in going on a trip, please contact the leader at least three days in advance. Trips usually leave from the Foodtown carpark in Fergusson Street with transport provided by car-pooling. A charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip, the amount depending on the distance travelled and vehicles used. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance. For general information or any suggestions for future tramps please contact one of the trip co-ordinators Terry Crippen (356-3588), Janet Wilson (329-4722) or Andrew Lynch (325-8779).

Trip leaders: Please discuss with the trip co-ordinators, as soon as possible, if there is any doubt that you will be unable to run your trip as scheduled. This is so that alternatives can be arranged, put in the newsletter, or passed on at club night.

\*\*\* OVERDUE TRIPS \*\*\*

Enquiries to: Mick Leyland (358-3183), Terry Crippen (356-3588), or Janet Wilson (329 4722)

## **NOTICES**

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES can be Emailed to [leatherwood@pcconnect.co.nz](mailto:leatherwood@pcconnect.co.nz)

[tony.gates@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:tony.gates@horizons.govt.nz), or delivered to home or work.

If you're e-mailing, please include your article as an attachment (Microsoft Word Version 7.0 or Rich Text Format), unless it is a small article, which can be typed directly into the e-mail.

### **EMAIL ADDRESS LIST**

Committee members who are connected to Email are listed below. Please note that changes to this list may occur from time to time, so we will try to keep it as up to date as possible.

warren.wheeler@horizons.govt.nz

terry\_crippen@clear.net.nz

P.WILES@wiles.gen.nz

[tony.gates@horizons.gov.nz](mailto:tony.gates@horizons.gov.nz), or at home, at leatherwood@pcconnect.co.nz

atlynch@ihug.co.nz

B.vanBrunt@massey.ac.nz

[gaewyn.grant@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gaewyn.grant@xtra.co.nz)

doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz

### **Wednesday Tramping Group.**

We go out every second Wednesday on easy tramps. Come and join us. For more information, please phone Judy 357 0192, Jennifer, 323 3914, or June 355 2690.

### **Cooker Fuel For Sale.**

For all your tramping trips; Terry has got bulk white spirits (Shellite/ Pegasol/ Calite- various names) available for your cookers. At \$3.50 a litre, it is much cheaper than up to \$8 when you have to buy it in the one litre containers from a garage. Contact Terry 356 3588. Bring you own container if you have one.

### **Congratulations.**

Congratulations to Christine Taylor, and partner Brent, who had a baby just before Christmas) Baby Bryn Franklin Robinson (yes, Franklin after Mt Franklin in Nelson Lakes) was born 22 December 2002. 7lb 10oz/ 3.465kg and very long definitely trampers legs.

**SAR and SAR training.** by Terry Quite a bit has been happening for club Search and Rescue persons late March early April. A number were called upon to take part in the recent search in the Takapiri Rd area of the southern Ruahines. This involved both night and day time searching. Thank you Janet, Graham, Peter, Derek, Richard and Heather.I went on a intermediate Track and Clue Awareness training weekend, along with Hugh Wilde from MTSC and others from clubs from around the southern NI. Theory and practical sessions covered such topics as: Sign cutting - using circle, perimeter and decision point methods; ageing of sign – very difficult (try it in your back yard with such things as apple core, paper, footsteps); and male-female sign differentiation. Derek went on a Search methods weekend course (Derek will give you a run down

of that). While others attended a day track and clue course and/or a day of low angle rope work.

### **Prime Minister opens the Sledge track**

Helen Clark officially opened the Sledge Track, up the Kahuterawa Valley, on Sunday 6 April. Llew and Jenny Pritchard, Merv Matthews, Christine Cheyne and Terry Crippen, were club members who went along as invited guests. There was the odd speech, a wee walk, a feed, light rain and large numbers of people. Other club members, as well as those of us that were invited, have at various times given Ian Argyle, the driving force behind the track, help to develop it, or helped with tracks and routes in Hardings Park. The Sledge Track follows the old paper road up the side of the stream to what was formally part of the Turitea Water Reserve (and as a result public access was not available). The Kahuterawa part of the Water Reserve, since it has never been used to collect water for the City, has now been re-designated into a Scenic Reserve, called Hardings Park. Public access is now allowed into this area (860 ha) which joins the northern end of the Tararua Forest Park.

## **Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club President's Report - March 2003**

It is with pleasure that I present the 37th President's Report.

### **Membership**

We have welcomed 16 new members over the last year with a loss of only 10, so current membership now totals 75, the highest for many years. This includes 11 families and 64 individuals, with a 60:40 ratio of men and women.

### **Activities**

As in the past, the committee this year has ensured that the club offers a wide variety of trips, club nights, social activities and instruction courses for members and non-members. Special thanks to Janet Wilson for coordinating the trip card, Terry Crippen for again organising the Snowcraft and Navigation Courses, and to Bruce Van Brunt and the other Snowcraft instructors who helped make the Courses so successful for those attending.

Club nights included slide presentations by club members on Climbing in Tasman Valley, Mount Aspiring, Alpine Ruahine, Patagonia-Atacama Desert, Southern Ocean (including Antarctica), Western Australia, Mongolia Climbing, Mt Fuji and beyond, and South Island Road Trip. Other

speakers gave presentations on Craters and Lahars, DoC funding and recreation planning, and local DoC activities. We also had BYO slides evenings, Navigation, Indoor Rock Climbing at City Rock, and a social night of Glow-worms and the Waterford Pub.

This year the Mid-winter Celebrations were cancelled due to poor weather.

The Club photo competition was again followed by the Interclub Photo Competition hosted this year by MUAC, with PNTMC members scooping a fair share of the prizes.

MUAC also hosted the Interclub Quiz and for the first time in history they took home the trophy. It was disappointing to see the lack of support for this entertaining and challenging event - in another first, MTSC did not even enter a team.

The End-of-Year BBQ at Ashhurst Domain was a great success, with a large number attending despite the drizzly weather. The January BBQ at Horseshoe Bend was also well attended and blessed with fine weather.

### **Past Trips**

We have again offered a wide variety of trips this year, from "Easy" to "Technical". As usual the "Easy" trips tend to have the largest groups, but instruction courses were also well attended by members and non-members. In fact the most popular trips were the Navigation Exercise and Honeycomb Rocks with 13 people on each. Snowcraft was also popular again with 12 students on SC1, reducing to 8 on SC3. Longer trips such as the "Fit" South Island trip to Nelson Lakes-Lewis Pass at Easter tend to be for the hardy few, but easier trips have also offered challenging and enjoyable outdoors experiences, with 11 people proving the popularity of the "Easy" trip on the Queen Charlotte Walkway over Queens Birthday Weekend.

Gradings of some trips have been a little optimistic, and although being extended beyond one's comfort zone is to be expected at times, leaders have been reminded to take care with trip grading and planning with due regard for the experience of the group members. I myself am guilty of some particularly outstanding examples: in early January a "Medium" 5-day trip across the Tararua Ranges included a couple of 10.5 hour days and the trip being shortened to suit; an "Easy" Wharite trip became an 8.5 hour adventure, as was an "Easy-Medium" trip to Ruapae Falls. Although these were memorable and rewarding trips, they are good reminders that keeping within the experience, fitness and skill

level of the party is more likely to ensure an enjoyable and safe outdoors experience for all concerned.

It is pleasing to report that despite pushing the comfort boundaries at times there have been no major mishaps on trips this year.

### **Search and Rescue**

About 15 club members are involved as SAR volunteers and many of them have been deployed in four Search and Rescues this year, the latest just this week. Trish Eder in Taihape was also involved in a Rangitikei search. Although only one of the local searches was for a tramping party, the expertise and fitness we can bring is much appreciated by the Police and all concerned.

In the recent Levin SAREX our two teams each succeeded in locating their lost party and enjoyed practising such skills as tracking, sound sweeps, first aid and comms by radio. SAR is not all fun and games and takes a high level of commitment from volunteers which is not always easy to meet, especially for getting time off work. It is also not without danger as highlighted by the emergency helicopter landing on the SAREX.

It is pleasing to see local Police continuing to support volunteers and making SAR Training a priority, with regular courses to maintain and enhance volunteer skill levels. Terry Crippen deserves special mention for his role as secretary for the local Land SAR Committee.

### **Gear**

We have purchased two tent flies this year to replace the old ones. Mick Leyland our Gear Custodian deserves special thanks for managing the gear for hire, and putting up with late night visits for that last minute weekend trip.  
Club Constitution to be amended

Funding for more Club gear and instruction has been upset by Eastern and Central Community Trust now requiring our "tax-free" status, which has been withheld by IRD until we have made some minor amendments to our constitution. Other funding sources are available, especially pub trusts but it was felt opportune to update the constitution in other areas as well, particularly extending the timing of the AGM to within 2 months of the financial year ending. Steps have therefore been taken to amend the Constitution at this AGM.

### **Huts and tracks**

Howletts Hut is a popular destination high in the Ruahine Range and the club has assisted Heretaunga Tramping Club, who own the hut, with

replenishing coal supplies and other maintenance to enhance its reputation as a great place to visit, or shelter from a storm. Tony Gates deserves special mention for his enthusiastic contribution and for the specially printed new log book that he has just produced.

Work is continuing on the Kahuterawa Tracks in the unused portion of the Turitea Water Supply Reserve behind Palmerston North. The Sledge Track is to be officially opened by the Prime Minister shortly. Tracks through Harding Park are now being upgraded. Several members have helped on working bees to mark routes, bench tracks, and carry in timber.

DOC has run User Group Meetings during the year to keep us updated on what they are doing locally. These have been well attended and are a worthwhile forum to provide feedback. The issue of which huts are a priority (and therefore which ones might be allowed to run down) will no doubt ensure some lively meetings later this year.

#### **Web-site**

A major achievement this year was the PNTMC web-site going on-line in December. We now have a portal to the world, which helps meet our Club objective of promoting outdoor recreation and appreciation of nature. The site was initially developed as a project for a group of Information Technology students led by Jack McKenzie. Jack has also generously helped get it on-line and in appreciation of his invaluable contribution to the

Club we have presented him with a carton of wine. Since going on-line the site is now being fine-tuned, with one or two pages still flagged as "under construction". Special thanks to Tony Gates for his enthusiastic support of the IT project group, Martin Lawrence for suggesting PNTMC to the project group and for his IT expertise and experience, and to Peter Wiles for taking on the mantle of web-master. Any suggestions for improving the site are most welcome.

#### Thanks

Thanks to everyone on the Committee who have helped keep the Club running so smoothly over the year. Special thanks to Tony Gates as Newsletter Editor, Peter Wiles as Treasurer, David Grant as Secretary, and Terry Crippen as my trusty Vice-President.

Finally, a special thanks to Monica Cantwell and Richard Lockett for helping to promote the Club by distributing Club flyers on noticeboards around Palmerston North and Feilding.

And thank you all for supporting the Club.

Good Tramping.

Warren Wheeler  
27 March 2003

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Te Hekenga- Howletts- Oroua, March 14- 15- 16. By Janet Wilson.**

Late summer- what a fantastic time for tramping, and this year has been exceptional, locally anyway. With yet more fine weather forecast, we were in fine spirits as we headed up to Rangi hut on the Friday evening. Graham and I left work early (and arrived in time to have dinner there), and Jean and Arran rolled in just on dark. Hut tidy, and we had it to ourselves- great.

Jean had us up early next morning in case we were in for a long day. More sunshine, though there were easterly cloud build ups in the direction we were heading. We made good time north along the Whanahuia Range, and had a snack and play with the GPS just after you turn towards Te Hekenga. Down a bit, then up up up. We stopped just short of the top for a break- maps out, admiring the views. Pleased with ourselves that we'd covered so much ground, this break turned into lunch, and we lazed there for 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  hours. Moving on, Graham dropped his pack for a

look at "The Cheval Pitch"- we sidled this, and then went back for a look from the other side. Good decision to sidle! Nice tramping past the tarns to Tiraha, then down and along to Howletts, with a quick stop to search for the end of one of Jean's walking poles she'd lost in a strong wind some time back- no luck.

Arrived Howletts 3.30 pm, with plenty of eating time. The clouds rolled in, and it started to drizzle. Time to light the fire- plenty of coal, thanks to those who pay for and organize this (Derek Sharp and co). Operator incompetence led to some minor, though interesting explosions from the fire during the evening.

Sunday morning- a bit claggy, and the team was not quite so enthusiastic. We traveled south down the Daphne Ridge to where the poled route turns east down a saddle towards the Ngamoko Range (Oroua Saddle). We turned west, towards the Oroua. Locating the correct spur in the cloud took a little sorting out, the GPS was sending confusing

messages, and both maps had holes in them at this point. Jean and Graham got it right, and we pushed and crawled and cursed our way down a seldom used leatherwood route. Mostly good travel below this. Had a snack as we're grouped at the stream, then easy travel downstream to some forks below Triangle Hut (though Jean had forgotten to mention the deep bits). With some careful climbing, most people only just got their undies wet. Lunch in the sun at the forks. We then traveled upstream a short way to pick up the track to/ from Triangle Hut. We climbed up to the saddle, and from here, headed back up to the Whanahuia Range. The track through the leatherwood is marked, and reasonably good. Jean found the jandal she'd lost a month before, which meant she got the prize she'd offered as a reward (she shared the chocolate bar with us later). From the top, we returned to the cars via the Deadmans track, arriving at 6.15 pm- an honest 10 hour day. A very enjoyable tramp, thanks Jean for showing us an interesting route. We were; Jean Garman, Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, and Arran de Malmanche.

#### **Pouakai Hut, March 15-16 by Harley Betts.**

It was a nice relaxing start to the weekend... with a much needed sleep-in for me, followed by a very reasonable departure time for Taranaki of about 9 am. We were a small party of just three, and the forecast for the weekend ahead was very settled. All very nice & relaxing really. We reached the Mangorei Road end soon after lunch, and under partly cloudy skies we had a quick lunch next to the car and started off up the track. Not before gorging ourselves on fat, ripe blackberries that grew in great numbers at the track entrance though! With appetites satisfied, we finally headed off, past the "Kiwi Zone" sign that warned dog owners not to feed kiwi to their best friends, and eventually into the fresh coolness of the forests of Egmont National Park itself.

The silence of the forest here was quite haunting, and, in a way, sad. There seemed to be almost no bird life whatsoever, save for a few grey warblers and tomtits now and then, presumably because introduced pests have done so much damage to the bird populations in the Park. Warapong and I chatted back and forth now and then, whilst Sam lagged back to take in the surroundings at his own pace. Eventually Warapong and I also walked along in silence, the only sounds being the soft rustling of damp leaf litter underfoot and our rhythmic breathing as we gradually made our way up the countless steps. I let my mind drift through the lush green ferns and mosses all around us, smelling the dankness of the forest floor and marvelling at the sheer

profusion of vegetation that we were passing through. Each tree, each fern, was a whole community of plants and insects in its own right, all living together in this strange, silent world where the birds no longer sing.

The Mangorei track is not at all difficult or challenging; it's more like a Sunday stroll really. I found it to be a welcome change to be carrying a relatively light pack rather than buckling under the weight of too much camera gear (admittedly though, my pack was quite light too because I had forgotten a large part of my normal overnight kit in my rush to pack up and go earlier in the morning). Whatever the reason though, it meant that I could cruise along on auto-pilot rather than drain most of my energy fighting against gravity, one step at a time. What a luxury! After about 90 minutes we reached Grayling's Clearing, a small open patch in the scrub zone at about 1000 metres, where we got expansive views out over the New Plymouth area and northwards towards the magnificent Tongaporutu coastline. We pressed on, switching back around a small summit and entering a valley head where gnarled and twisted mountain cedars grew in their hundreds, their sun-bleached, distorted limbs all bent over by the prevailing westerlies. The sheer force of these winds must be incredible, going by how these trees have been literally tortured into such bizarre shapes. We marvelled at the sight, and I let my mind wander off to ideas of coming back here in winter when such a storm might be in full swing, just to see what it might be like... the thought wafted through my consciousness as I strolled onwards, the rhythmic crashing beat of Peter Kruder's *Donaudampfschiffahrtsgesellschaftskapitänskäutenremix* playing over and over in my mind as though I was watching the beginnings of a movie with this track as a theme song. It all seemed quite surreal, especially when wafts of low cloud came down now and then and played games with our senses of scale and distance.

We finally got to Pouakai Hut after about 2 hours, and, after dropping our gear, headed up the short slope to the ridgeline above the hut where the famous grandstand views of Egmont could be had. The track forks at a point where the ridgeline is quite bare, save for a few remaining pedestals of soil topped with tussock where the wind has stripped away almost everything else, including the soil. It reminded me of parts of the Rangipo "Desert" near the Tukino Road area, where the wind rules supreme, stripping away the land itself. From this point, Egmont stood clear and sharp against the late afternoon sky, its few remaining patches of winter snow gleaming in the low sunlight. We headed down to a small collection of tarns out towards Henry Peak; Sam

and Warapong continued on to climb Maude Peak while I lay down beside one of the tarns and just soaked in the fantastic view. Flies buzzed overhead, and now and then a light easterly whooshed gently through the tussock, ruffling the tarn's surface into a thousand tiny blue, sparkling ripples. Despite my initial reluctance to do this trip due to other commitments, I was suddenly glad that I had persevered and come along. Sometimes it is all too easy to get so engrossed in things to do with work that we simply fail to take time away, because of the feeling that we are just too busy to take time out. 'Nothing could be further from the truth', I thought to myself as I felt myself slowly recharging here beside the tarn, letting all the stress and pressure float away on the breeze that ruffled my hair.

Towards sunset, a large 'cap' cloud formed over the summit of Egmont, making a real spectacle as we could see the wind pouring through it from the east. The leading edge was quite ragged and changed by the second, quickly becoming a smooth blanket that coursed up and over the summit before dissolving as it flowed down the other side. Much like a stream flowing over a rounded stone, it went on and on, the cloud remaining in the same place while the wind flowed through it. It looked absolutely beautiful, especially as the last rays of sunlight caught its upper surface and capped it with delicate shades of salmon pink. No photos necessary; why would you really want to spoil such a moment anyway?

In the gathering shadows of dusk we headed back to the hut, where we prepared a gigantic stew of vegetables, spicy smoked garlic sausage and pasta. Sam made up a cheesecake while I uncorked a celebratory 'pre-birthday' bottle of vino, and we enjoyed the first course while the cheesecake was places outside to set. And set it did, too - my God it was a solid wee beast. I wondered if it was manufactured by Golden Bay Cement - I couldn't find any of the company's insignia on the box, but wouldn't have been surprised at all if I had found it. To Sam's credit, though, it tasted delicious.

After a sound night's sleep, I awoke at 6 am to the sounds of Sam's watch beeping at me to get up and check out the sunrise. I successfully ignored it and stayed in the sack, only to be reminded by Warapong's watch a while later which woke me enough to get up and run up to the ridgeline in time for the sunrise. It was a strange, hazy dawn, with low cloud grazing the tops around us and occasionally blotting out our views towards Egmont which was still capped with its hat of smooth cloud. It was cool, but not cold; again I found myself mulling over the idea of returning in

winter to see this same scene but with much more snow; to feel the bite of a much colder wind on my face, and to perhaps to spend a day or three just wandering around here with camera in hand to see what I could find. Warapong walked over and together we talked back and forth; he was just as taken as I was with the mystery of this strange, overcast morning, and the freshness of the moist breeze form the east that brought in the low cloud.

We headed down to the hut for breakfast, a strong coffee, and a general clean up before it was time to pack up and head back down again. On our way down I pointed out some of the local vegetation to Warapong, including the famous leatherwood which grew thickly next to the track. "Why is it called leatherwood?" Warapong asked; I explained that it was because the leaves and branches are flexible and leathery, grabbing a twig nearby to demonstrate this property. It broke off cleanly with a crisp 'snap', much to Sam's amusement.

Before long we were back at the Mangorei Road end, back to that great little blackberry patch where another feast was had, and back to the car covered with morning dew. A 3-hour drive back to Palmy, and it was almost as though the trip had never happened. Was it really just a few hours ago that we were in the clouds on the Pouakais? It hardly seemed real, as though it had happened in another lifetime. Such is the reality of returning home after time away.

Thanks to Sam and Warapong for a nice wee break away from the pressures of daily life! We were: Warapong Teeranititamakul, Sam Gillingham and Harley Betts (scribe).

#### **Iron Gates Gorge (Impromptu) Trip, 16 March 2003. by Dave Houlbrooke.**

Just like every other day in the March of 2003, Sunday the 16th of March promised to be a beautiful fine day right from the outset. My wife Clare and I set out for our first tramp with the PNTMC after we had heard what a great walk the Iron Gates gorge trip was. The trip started productively when we helped 2 guys jump start a car with flat batteries after their early morning walk with the lights left on in their car. While still waiting for the rest of the crew I gained a lot of inspiration from a 78 year old trumper/ hunter who was just heading off for 5 days in the bush.

Soon the rest of the crew arrived and Warren introduced us to Elaine, Ian, Yuko, and Doug and after a quick look at the route and we were off. Before I knew it we were at Heritage lodge for what seemed like an undeserved early break, but

I never turn down a chance for some scroggin and water. The walk up the valley seemed to have a great number of ups and downs for a supposed river sidle walk but the views of the upper reaches of the Oroua River from the top of the terrace were well worth it. By 11:30 we found ourselves on a descent until we came to opening beside the river itself. Some suitable perching rocks were found while we had a lunch break and tried to decide what the outside shell of a watermelon was called.

The descent back down the river bed was slower going than the track but was a very different and interesting perspective giving us both the opportunity to practise our river crossing techniques and compass bearings. Entertainment was briefly supplied by Ian when he accidentally showed us how the pools could also be swum across as well as waded. We arrived at the head of the Iron Gates gorge at about 4 pm, but wouldn't you know it with the daylight savings change the night before we were about an hour late for having the sun on the water for the impending swim/pack float. This nearly gave the group a suitable excuse for walking back up the hill instead, however bravery prevailed and we all took on the challenge in water that would still be described as a tad nippy. The combination of pain and excitement was quickly over and we soon dried off, especially when we had a rather steep climb up the terrace on a rather dirty little track and then back through some farm land to the cars. The day was successfully finished off by calling into the Kimbolton Café for some well-deserved coffee, cake and beverage.

We were Elaine Herve, Doug Strachan, Ian Marsden, Yuko Watanabe, Warren Wheeler (leader), Clare McCarron and Dave Houlbrooke.

#### **Coppermine Creek, March 22. By: Adrienne Cavanagh.**

Salvador Dali once said: There are some days when I think I'm going to die from an overdose of satisfaction'

Maybe my feeling wasn't quite this extreme but it was definitely a day of great enjoyment. I had the opportunity of becoming an honorary member of the PNTMC for the day of March 22nd as I tagged along with the following people on the walk up to Coppermine creek, lead by Elaine Herve, with Ian Harding, Neil Campbell, Dave Pope, Monica Cantwell, Aly Stevens, Wara Teeraniti, Doug Strachan.

Climbing up into the Ruahine hills was a pleasant way to spend yet another summer's day in the Manawatu. I can see why this tramp is voted as one of the most favourable by the club members.

A generally easy walk taking you through a variety of historic land marks, views and landscapes. Being a newcomer to the PNTMC but not to tramping, the day brought a great sense of enjoyment for me (and I'm sure everyone else also) without being too demanding or long with many highlights for all involved.

Learning some historical facts along the way. Capturing some memories on film as I actually remembered my camera for once. Looking for cave weta in the 'magazine' shaft, Not much luck but their habitation in this cave is probably less threatening than its former use for the storage of ammunition. Great views of the Ruahine tops and the Manawatu landscape as we walked down the steep farmland hill. Cooling off in the waterhole, Monica was the bravest and took the opportunity of a swim. Having 2 morning teas and lunch in idyllic surroundings, then consuming the much loved kiwi ice-cream cone in Woodville! Hearing about Ian's family history, many of who occupy the land around the area.

Thanks to Elaine for organizing the trip and it allowed me to get some exercise for the day and meet some wonderful people. Never know when you might see me out again on a free weekend in the future.

#### **Waitewaiwai 29/30 March. By Liz Flint.**

No-one rang us about the trip so Arthur and I decided to set out for Waitewaiwai ourselves. Having the luxury of sleeping in on Saturday morning was a bonus which we thoroughly enjoyed. We left home about 10.30 or 11.00 and found a drizzle coming down at Otaki Forks. The weather was very warm and so even thinking of a waterproof garment made us hot. We stopped for a late morning tea at the old steam engine and ambled our way forward after stopping and talking to the End of the forest (Many of you will know of the tree I'm talking of here) We promised him we would shelter beneath his arms and have lunch with him on our return on Sunday. Lunch was enjoyed sitting at the plateau with drips of water hitting us in all directions. This wasn't the fine weather we had envisaged, not even pleasant for a nap. We arrived at the hut at about 4.20pm. Thank goodness there were some magazines to read for the sky darkened and we experienced that wet stuff torrenting from the sky. After an early night and Arthur worrying whether his rugby picks had been good enough to give him some credibility at work (the ladies have been beating him recently) we awoke to better morning weather. Yes I did get my cup of tea in bed. We then breakfasted and set off for an early lunch with the Ent arriving back home just after 2.00pm. Stopping of course at the little ice cream shop at

Manakau for a milkshake and biggest 50 cent icecream to be had in the country.  
We were Liz & Arthur Flint

**Traffic report from Sunrise Hut, 5/6 April, by Duncan Hedderley.**

7.30 Saturday morning I was putting my borrowed pack into Liz's car, before we headed off to pick up Fiona. I couldn't see why Liz wanted to start so early - even allowing for the long drive out to Ongaonga, surely we would be up at Sunrise by lunchtime? We arrived at the road-end to find four vehicles already there; and soon after another car (from Marton) arrived. I hoped some of them were day-trippers, taking advantage of what looked to be the better day of the weekend. For Fiona and I, this was our first overnight trip. Walking with overnight packs wasn't hard, but certainly was slower than just carrying your sarnies and a raincoat. The group from Marton, who were headed for Top Maropea hut, passed us on the way up; and eventually Liz suggested we all carry on at our own pace. We arrived at Sunrise between 1.30 and 2.00pm, to find a party of three from Napier there already. We had a cup of tea and bagged bunks just before a family of four arrived and took the 'attic' bunk space. As they were settling in, a group of five Germans came up from behind the hut, but they must have been on some kind of loop walk, because they just waved and wandered on towards Armstrong Saddle and Top Maropea. Liz and I took a short trip up to the saddle, which was windy but gave an unexpected view of Ruapehu ("Aren't we looking north, not west?") We returned to the hut as five trampers from the South Wairarapa club arrived. With the last of the bunks gone, they settled down

in the recently enclosed back porch. The rest of the afternoon passed in cups of tea, conversation, reading, card games and the two kids playing with Shane (from Napier)'s dog Arrow. As the light failed, people pulled out candles (Shane produced a very effective gas lantern), and fired up the gas burners in the hut to cook tea. With fifteen people, it was a protracted affair, but we all got to eat eventually. Fiona's de-hy apricot chicken was a success, but the mashed potato took a while to gel. By 7.30 in the evening it was full dark, half of us had retreated to bed, and the others were either playing cards or watching the lights of Hastings and Dannevirke and talking. The forecast rain arrived overnight; so instead of the beautiful sunrise we had been promised, there was just murk which gradually got lighter. We got up, packed up and were on the track by 8.00. The worst of the rain had passed, but there were not many views to admire, and we got down to Triplex hut in an hour and a half. Liz and I had a cup of coffee, Fiona had a Bumper Bar, and we talked about who snored, how Fiona dealt with stinky toilets, and 'living in the past' programmes like 'The Pioneer House'. At school Fiona had known someone from Ongaonga, so we stopped there for a look (It is bigger than I thought, with some well-maintained old houses). We got back to Palmerston in time to have a shower and get to the supermarket Sunday afternoon. Thanks to Liz for making it all seem so easy and getting us there in time to get a bunk; and Robbie for the loan of his pack.

**THE WHO DID WHAT LIST for the year 2002 - 2003 (1 April to 30 March)**

Compiled by Terry

Following the format used for the last two years, I have compiled a listing of what longer/different/South/Island/overseas trips club members have on - be they club trips or private trips. The idea of this listing besides being a partial record of club members activities, is to enable us to see what a range of possibilities there is out there and who to quiz if we want further info. It is only a partial record - depending on who has been forthcoming with info and/or what I have heard about. There would be many other exciting places visited over the year. And don't forget all the activity closer to home in the Ruahines, Tararuas, Ruapehu and Egmont.

Note: One name DOESN'T imply a solo trip, it is just that I have only listed club members and past club members names.

\* denotes ascents

missed of last years list:

**February 2002**

Hauroko, Dusky Sound, Manapouri Fiordland NP Travers - Sabine	Gina Fermor Nelson Lakes NP Andrew Lynch
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**April 2003**

St James Walkway	Lewis Pass	Martin & Anne Lawrence, Stephen Liddal
Sabine - Blue Lake	Nelson Lakes NP	Merv Matthews
Cobb Valley - Tablelands	Kahurangi NP	Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne
Cass - Hamilton - Harper	Craigieburn FP	Liz Morrison

**June**

Queen Charlotte Walkway	Marlborough Sounds	Janet Wilson, Elaine Herve, Graham Peters, Heike Hahn, Tim Odering
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**July**

Altai Mountains; *Malchin, *Naraindal, *Khuiten, *Eagle Pk, *Tsengal Khairkham	Mongolia	Terry Crippen, Andrew Lynch
St James Walkway	Lewis Pass	Liz Morrison

**September**

Heaphy Track	Kahurangi NP	Liz Morrison
Jasper & Banff NPs	Canada	Jonathan Astin
Vanoise NP, Belledones	France	Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne
Coast Range BC; *Sloan	Canada	Dave Henwood

**October**

Lake District; *Helvellyn	England	Jonathan Astin
Sabine - D'Urville: *Franklin	Nelson Lakes NP	Andrew Lynch

**November**

Chatham Islands		Monica Cantwell
Fox Glacier; *Tasman	Westland NP	Andrew Lynch
Milford Track	Fiordland NP	Hilda & Graham Heap
Routeburn Track	Aspiring NP	Hilda & Graham Heap
West Matukituki, Bonar; *Aspiring	Mt Aspiring NP	Andrew Lynch

**December**

West Matukituki, Bonar; *Aspiring	Mt Aspiring NP	Bruce van Brunt, Derek Sharp
Hooker Valley; *Footstool	Mt Cook NP	Derek Sharp
Grand Plateau	Mt Cook NP	Terry Crippen, Nigel Green, Nigel Scott
Norfolk Island		Monica Cantwell
Brewster Hut area	Mt Aspiring NP	Harley Betts

**January 03**

Otaki Forks - Putara Rd crossing: Forks and Fly	Tararua FP	
		Warren Wheeler, Jo & Lawrence O'Hallaran, Toby Bunn
Dart - Rees	Aspiring NP	Heike Hahn
Minga - Goat Pass	Arthurs Pass NP	Liz Morrison
Marks Flat - Paringa; *Hooker, *McCullough	Hooker-Landsborough Wilderness	Barry Scott
Andes; *Aconcagua	Argentina	Jean Garman
Hopeless, Angelus; *Angelus	Nelson Lakes NP	Lance Gray
Perth, Lord Range	Adams Wilderness	Tony Gates

**February 03**

Tasman - Franz - Fox; *Minerets, *De la Beche	Mt Cook, Westland NPs	Bruce van Brunt, Derek Sharp
Haast: *Brewster	Mt Aspiring NP	Bruce van Brunt, Derek Sharp
Arthurs Pass: *Rolleston	Arthurs Pass NP	Bruce van Brunt, Derek Sharp
Hamilton, Begley; *Cotterell	St Arnaud Range	Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne
West Matukituki, Bonar: *French	Mt Aspiring NP	Terry Crippen, Nigel Scott
Travers Valley; *Travers, *Kehu, *Cupola	Nelson Lakes NP	Peter Wiles, Heather Bewick
Wangapeka Track, Kahurangi NP	Mick & Marion Leyland, Llew & Jenny Pritchard, Graham Roberts.	

**March 03**

Glencoe, Ben Nevis; *Anach Mor	Scotland	Jonathan Astin
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