

# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

**Newsletter - July 2003**

## TRIPS

### CLUB NIGHTS

Club nights are on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friend's Hall, 227 College Street, at 7:45pm **sharp**. All welcome!

At the club night: Please sign the visitor's book. A 50c door fee includes supper.

#### July 10 Ascent of Aconcagua Jean Garman

At 6962m, Aconcagua is the highest mountain in the southern and western hemispheres. It can also be climbed by people with only moderate fitness and minimal experience. Last summer Peter Rawlins and I went to South America to attempt the mountain - this is the story of our trip.

#### July 31 Alpine Ruahine Tony Gates

To assist you with preparations for your next Sawtooth Ridge trip, Te Hekenga Crossing, or similar, Tony will discuss a few good routes, and show slides of both winter and summer on the Ruahine alpine tops.

E-mail articles to [doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz)  
or post to 1 Worsfold Lane, Palm. North  
(by 20<sup>th</sup> of month)

For lots more photos & trips, check out  
[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

Please contact the leader at least three days in advance. Trips leave from Foodtown carpark. A reasonably proficient trumper can be expected to do the trips in the following times:

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs                      Technical skills reqd (T)  
Medium (M): 5-6 hrs                Instructional (I)  
Fit (F): about 8 hrs  
Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

#### July 3 Committee Meeting at Mick's

#### July 6 Manawatu Gorge Track                      E Elaine Herve                                      345 2499

Easy bush walk with plenty of gorgeous nikau palms to give that tropical feel. After the walk you can gorge yourself at the café that is beyond the bridge. 9am start.

#### July 12-13 Whangehu Climbing                      F,T Derek Sharp                                      326 8178

We'll wander up the north buttress of Mitre, walk across the summit, and peer at the lake. Negotiable start time. Note: This trip has changed from the weekend of July 5-6 to July 12-13.

#### July 12-13 Keretaki Hut                                      E Mick Leyland                                      358 3183

Up the stream to this hut in the south-eastern Ruahines. We'll take a loop track along the ridge back to the car. Easy trip leaving 8:30am.

#### July 13 Cattle Ridge                                      F Dave Grant                                      357 8269

A bit of adventure in the NE Tararuas. In from Putara road end to Roaring Stag hut on the Ruamahanga, up,up,up,up to Cattle Ridge on the tops for a latish lunch, and back again. Come and give your legs a stretch. 7am start from Foodtown. Trips Continue overleaf...

## TRIPS contd

### Trip participants:

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Foodtown carpark. A charge for transport will be collected on the day. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance. For general info, or any suggestions for future tramps, please contact Terry Crippen (356-3588), Janet Wilson (329-4722) or Andrew Lynch (325-8779).

### Trip leaders:

Please advise a trip coordinator, as soon as possible, if 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)

### Portal to the Past

These days trips leave from Foodtown, in daylight, but are we getting soft?

**Newsletter No.3, Apr. 1966:**  
"WHARITE PEAK, Ruahine Range. Easy day trip, leaving 6am."  
"COPPERMINE CREEK. Easy day trip ...leaving 6am."

**Newsletter No.6, July 66:** "All trips leave from the 'Izadiuzn' at 6a.m."

When I found the skull in the woods I immediately called the police, but began to wonder: Who was this person and why did he have antlers?

### July 19 **Outdoor 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Revalidation** **Tom Siegenthaler 357 7237**

This is a Mountain Safety Council run exercise to get club members up to scratch (literally) on 1<sup>st</sup> aid... see notices.

### July 19-20 **Tunupo- Iron Gates M/F** **Graham Peters 329 4722**

Up onto the tops, along Ngamoko Range, dropping down to Iron Gates Hut for the night. Leave Foodtown at 7am for this popular part of the Ruahines.

### July 20 **Coppermine Creek E** **Ian Harding 06 376 5707**

There's copper in them there hills. This historically interesting tramp, not far beyond the Manawatu Gorge, offers ore-some lessons in geology. 9am start.

### July 24 **Snowcraft applications close** **See notices for details.**

### July 26-27 **Holly Hut – Pouakai ENP M** **Malcolm Parker 357 5203**

Cruise over to New Zealand's own little "Mt Fuji" in Egmont National Park. This trip is a circuit from north Egmont over to Holly Hut, then on to Pouakai Hut for the night. On Sunday, we'll complete the circuit back to north Egmont. Views from Pouakai Hut are said to be amazing. Come and see for yourself, and walk this recently upgraded track, complete with flash new bridges.

### July 27 **Rangi Circuit M** **Peter Wiles 358 6894**

Check out some alternative routes to Rangi now that the regular is slipped out. This is a chance to investigate what surgery DoC has done on the track. Depending on the weather, we might go on to the tops. Leaving Foodtown at 7am.

### July 29 **Snowcraft 1 evening** **(Tues) For those who signed up.**

### This World of Ours

Would you like to see NZ and other countries at night from space? The contrast between continents like Africa and Europe is striking. To see the whole Earth in its full night-time glory, find a computer and go to:

<http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/jpeg/PIA02991.jpg>

This site is well worth the visit.

## NOTICES

**Subs Paid?, Newsletter Changes, Mary Changes, Snowcraft, New Totara Flats Hut, NZAC Meeting, Outdoor 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Courses, Wed & Thurs Tramps, Garage Sale.**

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** can be e-mailed to [doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz) or delivered to 1 Worsfold Lane, PN

### HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBS?

If you have not paid your subscription for club membership, please do so promptly. This is the last newsletter for those who do not renew their membership. The fee is the same as last year: \$30 adult, \$35 family, \$15 junior.

### NEWSLETTER CHANGES

From now on, you should receive the newsletter at the beginning of the month. Thus the July newsletter will contain July trips rather than August ones. If trip reports reach the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, they will make it into the next newsletter.

Feel free to submit anything else you think club members would enjoy. The only restriction is that it shouldn't be overly long, and must be related to tramping or mountaineering. Poems, cartoons, letters to the editor etc are welcome. If you submit something that isn't your own, e.g. something you find on the net, please include the source.

Newsletters are now laser-printed, which is why photo quality has improved. Do submit photos taken on club trips.

The front page has become a "happening" page, ripping straight into what the club is all about.

It is important that the newsletter has a consistent format from month to month, and this will be the case once the changes are finalised and any feedback considered. The committee hopes you like the changes, and that you will wait eagerly by the letterbox for each issue's delivery.

Ed.

### CONGRATS TO MARY CRAW

Long time club member Mary Crow, with a figure of 8, tied the knot on Sat., June 21<sup>st</sup>, the longest night of the year. Congratulations Mary and Bernard Hughs! We hope you can find people to moo-sit for you, so you can venture off the farm and into the hills.

### SNOWCRAFT INSTRUCTION 2003

This programme teaches basic and intermediate skills so you can safely get out onto snow and ice. It covers straight forward walking on snow slopes, simple snow climbing, and aspects of technical mountaineering. Snowcraft 1 assumes nil or only minor previous experience. The 3 snowcraft weekends are a fortnight apart, with two at Mt Ruapehu and one at Mt Egmont. There are also three week-night sessions (one prior to each weekend). Numbers are limited, so be in early. Application close **Thursday 24 July** (note; this is not a club night)

#### DATES and FEES:

Snowcraft 1 \$120 (\$125\*)

Weekend: 2-3 August (evening: Tues 29 July)

Snowcraft 2 \$130 (\$135\*)

Weekend: 16-17 August (evening: Wed Aug 13)

Snowcraft 3 \$120 (\$125\*)

Weekend: 30-31 August (evening: Wed Aug 27)

One off discounted fee for the full programme: \$355 (\$370\*)

(\* non PNTMC member rate)

For further info and registration form: contact Terry Crippen 3563-588

*"The only thing that ever sat its way to success was a hen."* Sarah Brown.  
(So get tramping!)

## NEW TOTARA FLATS HUT OPEN

The department has completed construction of the new hut for Totara Flats on the eastern side of the Tararua Forest Park. It is now open to the public.

The new Totara Flats Hut (Grid Reference S26, 123276) is located at the junction of the Totara Creek and Waiohine River. It is classified as a DOC Serviced Hut with heating and cooking facilities. Hut tickets are required for users.

The old Totara Flats Hut (Grid Reference S26, 116268) is now closed and will be removed.

For further information please contact:

Wairarapa Area Office, Department of Conservation, Masterton. Ph 06 377 0700

## NZAC EVENING IN WELLINGTON July 7 (Mon)

Well known mountaineers John Nankervis and David Bamford are talking to the New Zealand Alpine Club in Wellington. These two characters have climbed extensively throughout New Zealand and the world, and are both accomplished photographers and speakers. This will be one of the best club evenings you can ever attend. If you are interested in attending, then please contact one of our NZAC members (Terry Crippen, Tony Gates, Andrew Lynch) to arrange shared transport.

## OUTDOOR 1<sup>st</sup> AID REVALIDATION

This is a Mountain Safety Council run exercise to get club members up to scratch (literally) on 1<sup>st</sup> aid. If your outdoor 1<sup>st</sup> aid certificate is not more than 2yrs old (3mth grace period), this is a one day course to renew it. Your current certificate must be for outdoor 1<sup>st</sup> aid, not a regular St. John's one. It's O.K. if you've lost your certificate, because you will be on their records. The one day revalidation course will be held in Levin on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$35. You have to pay in advance of the course. Call Tom Siegenthaler on 357 7237 to register interest.

## ANOTHER OUTDOOR 1<sup>st</sup> AID COURSE

If you are not a current outdoor first aid certificate holder, but want to be, there will be a full weekend course on August 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. It runs from Fri 7:30pm till 3 or 4pm Sunday afternoon. It costs about \$100. They need to know the final number of participants a week beforehand so they can organise catering etc... Call Tom Siegenthaler on 357 7237 if you want to sign up for the course.

## 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.

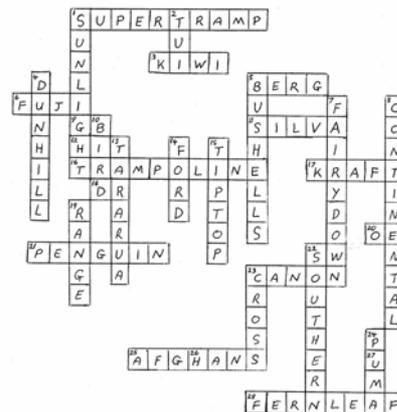
## THURSDAY TRAMPERS

We go for a tramp every Thursday. If you wish to join us, contact Merve Matthews 357 858, or Liz Flint 356 7654.

## GARAGE SALE

To raise funds for the PNTMC, a garage sale will be held in the spring. Unwanted books, kitchenware, toys, tools, CD's, clothes, etc will be collected during the winter. If you have such items you want to get rid of, call Doug on 353 6526.

The solution for last month's crossword:



## TRIP REPORTS

### Sunrise Hut, Waiopehu Hut, Egmont Nat. Park, SAR Team Leaders' Course

#### Sunrise Hut, June 8 By Heike Hahn

Members: Fiona Donald, Judith Kidd, Wara Teeranitamkul, Thomas Knoesche, Heike Hahn (leader).

We left the Foodtown carpark in Palmerston North at 7.30am and headed towards Northeast. All the previous days of that week were rainy and windy – an indication that the winter is approaching. Surprisingly, on our way to Ashhurst, we experienced a wonderful sunrise which turned out to be the promise for a clear and sunny day.

Thomas from Germany was driving Heike's car. In the Manawatu Gorge *we had to remind him that we are not on the German "Autobahn"* .... and soon he adapted the speed to the winding road. We made a short stop in Norsewood to refill the tank and to buy a newspaper with the latest news about the Friday evening's air crash in which 7 people from Crop and Food Research died near Christchurch.

By the time we arrived at the road end, the car park was crowded with cars and vans and we thought "Hopefully not all of these guys are on their way to sunrise hut." Fortunately, on our way up we passed only one group of trampers from Napier, and we met them later at the hut again. After a short break for a drink and some photos on a nice and sunny spot, we continued our way up the zigzagging track.



At the start of our trip before entering the bush

As we got higher and higher, it became quite windy because the beech trees at that altitude were too small to give protection. Immediately after arriving at the hut, some of us climbed the small peak beside the it. Despite the awesome views around, this was definitely not the place to stay for long. The gusty winds made it a real challenge to take a photo without to be blown away. Despite she was very careful, Judith managed this in a perfect way. One guy from the Napier group experienced the power of the gusts when he couldn't keep his balance, fell on sharp stones, and back in the hut he was happy to get some tape and bandage from the first aid kit of his friends.

In the hut Thomas brewed a big pot of tea, and we had our lunch. We enjoyed that beautiful place and enjoyed even more to be out of the wind. At 1.30pm we left the hut, which is at 1300m altitude. We strolled down the well-maintained track leisurely with some more stops for photos. Our way back to Palmerston North was without any stop for coffee or icecream because Judith, and Thomas and Heike invited guests for dinner and wanted to be back not too late. To make driving more interesting, Fiona kept us entertained nearly all the time. All in all, it had been an interesting and enjoyable trip.

#### Waiopehu Hut, June 15 By Doug Strachan

Llew (leader) & Jenny Pritchard, Mick Leyland, Doug Strachan.

We crossed the farmland in about 15mins, and soon came to a sign that indicated it was 5hrs to Waiopehu Hut! The tramp was graded medium, so this caused some concern. The *return* trip should only take 6hrs. The solution was to go faster, and we got to the hut in just 3 and a half hours. On the way there, we passed the derelict Edward's Shelter, which none of us was game enough to stay in. We had considered lunching at the old Waiopehu Hut, but it's gone. The new one is 20mins beyond the site of the old one, just above the bush line. The new hut looks very attractive and inviting as you approach it. Entries in the hut book spoke of wonderful views, but bemoaned the lack of a fireplace. Alas, we didn't get a view as we were tramping in mist and rain

nearly all day. We lunched in the hut, and it was fairly cold. Llew turned around to see the rest of us all kitted up ready to walk out. He detected the "let's get the hell outta here" nuance, and our pace out reflected this attitude. We passed scores of dead possums, which had been plucked rather than skinned. The inconsiderate fur gatherers left the corpses right next to the track, and the putrefying flesh assaulted our olfactory organs. Possums and mud were the theme of the day. A good workout.

## **Maketawa Hut- Egmont NP**

### **June 14-15**

#### **By Elaine Hervé**

Elaine Hervé (Leader), Jo O'Halloran, Ian Harding, Yuko Watanabe, Adrienne Cavanagh, Wara Teeranitamkul, Irene O'Connell, Bryan Nelson.

Typical Taranaki – spectacular views, frost, wind, sun, rain & snow. The weather was as forecast, being sunny Saturday morning, deteriorating to heavy rain on Sunday. Information had also been received from DOC that there was no heating in the hut. The group was well prepared, and left Foodtown before dawn (7am).

We left Dawson Falls carpark just after 10am, and made our way up to the plateau and Manganui Lodge for lunch. There were many stops for photos of both the top of Egmont, and the surrounding area. At this point Bryan, a keen and fit climber, left us and made a detour that would take him up the Lizard (until strong winds turned him back).

After lunch we continued up towards Taurangi Lodge. There was increasing evidence of a really hard frost over night that had left interesting ice formations and frozen puddles on the path. As we neared the lodge, we reached the snow line. Wara had his first experience of walking on snow. The wind was cold and strong at the lodge and, as we could not all fit into the emergency shelter, we moved on down The Puffer. The snow was left behind, and *people became aware of their knee joints as we descended rapidly to the hut.*

Maketawa is an 18 bed hut with great views, both up the mountain, and of the surrounding district. But with no gas for heating, the temperature inside was about 4C. At the hut, we discovered why Ian's pack weighed about 18kgs. Not being a man to leave things to chance, he had brought

everything except the proverbial sink. The cold hut and early darkness had us all helping towards the evening meal, and tucked up in bed by 7pm. We emerged 12hrs later to wind and rain.

After a group discussion, we decided to stick with plan A, the concern being that heavy rain could make streams difficult to cross (However, I feel a trip leader has to be a little neurotic). We took the Curtis Falls Track to East Egmont. Unlike the previous day, we did not linger to admire the view, and took 15mins off the stated 3hrs to get to our lunch spot at East Egmont. This track contains some of the best bush I have seen. There are several steep-sided gullies to climb in and out of, but with nice flat stretches in between to get your health back.

The 2hrs back to Dawson Falls is on a recently cleared track, which made progress easier. Some of the streams were by now filling up, and most people got wet to knee level. For people who don't mind heights, great views are to be had from the swing bridge.

Back at the car park, we all squashed into the toilets to change out of wet clothing, and then it was on to Hawera for pies and ice creams.

Like many club trips, we were a diverse group. It was a pleasure to lead a group that was so positive about the whole trip, including the cold night and wet day.



The Last Samurai at Mt Fuji, or is it Mt Egmont, or is it Mt Taranaki?

God help me to finish everything I sta...

## SAR Team Leaders' Course 21-22 June By Janet Wilson

I recently attended a 2 day Search and Rescue Team Leaders' Course, instructed by Ross Gordon and Nick Cloyne from SARINZ.

The course was held in Levin at Heatherlea Lodge, which is rather more upmarket and comfortable than we are accustomed to. There were 22 participants from the district, from as far away as New Plymouth.

As is usual with this type of course, it was extremely well organised, presented, and informative, as well as being hugely entertaining at times. Topics covered included leadership styles, characteristics of successful teams, team leader's role, briefings, recording search effort etc as well as a review of search methods and some TCA skills.

On the Saturday night, the planned night exercise was to clash with the All Black / Wales Test - this could well have led to a mutiny from some if the group hadn't decide to work through until nearly 7pm, and then adjourn to the Cossie Club for dinner and the game!

Its great to have the opportunity to attend courses such as this as you learn a lot and also get to meet other people involved with SAR - this was an interesting bunch of people - if only I was better at remembering some of the jokes!

### CRYPTIC X-WORD #3

#### Across

- Now I understand conditions on the mountain.
- "Hide" in the bush.

#### Down

- Silly boy gets burned in camp fire.

1																			
2																			
3																			

### Believe it or Not

Although lake diving is not common in NZ, it is popular in California. It is a dangerous sport because many lakes are well above sea level. This means that you could be at a greater depth than your depth gauge indicates, and you risk getting the bends if you ascend too far too quickly. There is another danger. They put out forest fires over there by using special planes that skim along lakes and scoop up water, which is then dumped on the the burning trees. It is quite common for mountain users visiting California to be totally perplexed to see a corpse up the top of a tree wearing full diving gear.

**Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson** went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine, they lay down for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend. "Watson, look up and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars." "What does that tell you?," Holmes asked. Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Why, what does it tell YOU?" Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke. "Watson, you idiot. Some jerk has stolen our tent."

### An Abominable Story

Yeti: The Abominable Snowman. It is said to live in the remote areas of the Himalayas. The Sherpas tell many legends about the yeti, and often point to large footprints and gnawed yak bones to show the yeti has passed nearby. There are no clear photographs of the yeti. The goal of Sir Edmund Hillary's second expedition to the Everest region was to search for evidence of the yeti. His team escorted a Sherpa with an alleged yeti scalp and skins to Chicago, Paris and London, where scientists agreed the scalp was from a goat and the skins were from a Tibetan blue bear. They found no other evidence of the existence of the yeti.

Source: <http://www.whitnystewart.com/Hillary/Glossary.htm>

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