



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - May 2004

CLUB NIGHTS

Club nights are on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends 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.

Apr 29 **BYO Slides** (see April newsletter)

May 13 **Wine 'n' Cheese**
Dave Grant

Club night for the 13th will be held at Mountain Equipment, 188 The Square, starting at 7.45pm as usual. President Warren will keep the formalities to a minimum and then you can enjoy Mountain Equipment's hospitality. You will have a chance to catch up on the latest developments in outdoor clothing and equipment, followed by supper which will give you the opportunity to taste a range of freeze dry meals!!!!

May 20 **Committee Meeting @ Alisdair's**

May 27 **The Cook River & La Perouse**
Bruce van Brunt

The Cook river and the West Ridge of La Perouse are famous because of the rescue of Ruth Adams in 1948. Miss Adams was climbing a new route with Ed Hillary, Mick Sullivan, and Harry Ayres when the accident occurred close to the summit of La Perouse. In those days, the only "feasible" rescue route was descending the West Ridge of La Perouse and then descending the Cook River. There was no track and the West Coast bushmen had to hack their way up the river making a track suitable for carrying a stretcher. What an epic rescue!

The Cook River is seldom visited and the track cut for Ruth has been mostly swallowed up by the west coast bush. Derek and Bruce visited the region in 2002.

TRIPS

Please contact the leader at least three days in advance. Trips leave from Countdown 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

Apr 25 **Ruapehu Tama L.** (see Apr newsletter)

May 1-2 **Coppermine-Kumeti** **M**
Richard Lockett **323 0948**

In via Coppermine, then along to Keretaki Hut where we'll overnight. Out to Kumeti road the next day, encountering the Maharahara day trippers along the way. Set off at 7:30 for the S. Ruahines.

May 2 **Maharahara Crossing** **M**
Craig Allerby **323 5356**

Cross the southern Ruahines via this 1095m peak. Probably link up with the Kumeti party for transport.

May 8-9 **Lake Colenso** **F**
Tony Gates **357 7439**

This is a classic northern Ruahine tramp, going in from Taihape over the Maoai Patea Range early Saturday morning. The route is very river dependant, along a variety of good tracks. We will at least try to reach the lovely Colenso hut for Saturday evening.

E-mail articles to doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz
or post to 1 Worsfold Lane, Palm. North
(by 20th of month)

For lots more photos & trips, check out
www.pntmc.org.nz

President's Report - March 2004

It is with pleasure that I present the 38th President's Report.

Membership

We have welcomed 7 new members over the last year with a loss of 12, so current membership now totals 70. This includes 11 families and 58 individuals, with a 65:35 ratio of men and women.

Activities

As in the past, the committee has ensured that the club offers a wide variety of trips, club nights, social activities and instruction courses for members and non-members.

It is pleasing to report that there were no major mishaps on any trips this year, although some members have had near-misses, received knocks and scrapes, or been given a reminder that even small streams can be dangerous to cross.

Mid-Winter celebrations at Kawhatau Base were a memorable highlight for the social climbers, while the real climbers were active on both club and private trips to the South Island Alps, including ascents of Hopeless, Aspiring, Avalanche, Rolling Pin and Lord to name just a few.

Club nights were generally well-attended and included slide presentations by club members on climbing Mount Cook, De La Beche and Aconcagua, North Island Alpine Tramping, Kahurangi National Park, and the Whitcombe area. Liz Morrison also gave us a fire-side chat on her experiences on returning to tramping. Guest speakers gave presentations on climbing in the Fox Glacier area, tramping in the Landsborough area, and local DoC activities. We also had BYO slides evenings, a light-hearted but challenging Navigation Night, Indoor Rock Climbing at City Rock, a visit to the Rescue Helicopter hangar, a river safety video evening, Club photo competition, and a social night of Glow-worms and the Waterford Pub.

In September the MTSC hosted the Interclub Quiz, and with their home ground advantage managed to beat the PNTMC team into second place. Later that month we hosted the Interclub Photo Competition and scooped a good share of the prizes from the crème de la crème of local outdoor photographers.

The End-of-Year BBQ at Ashhurst Domain and the January BBQ at Horseshoe Bend were well

attended and enjoyed in fine weather for a change.

Snowcraft 1, 2, and 3 continue to provide valuable instruction to both members and non-members with Terry Crippen again ensuring their success. Thanks also to Bruce van Brunt and the other instructors for sharing their skills and experience with those attending. Terry also ran Navigation 1 and 2 again this year and I gather that all those who returned found the experience most rewarding.

It is great to see the contacts and support provided by the club extending beyond club activities, with private climbing and tramping trips being organised and several members competing successfully in the Kaweka Challenge despite the inclement conditions.

Past Trips

An analysis of past trips shows that May was the most popular month for tramping with 48 members and non-members on trips. This was followed closely by September, October and December all with 47, and August with 46 thanks to the 9 attending Snowcraft. November was fourth with 43. The worst month was July with only 17 people braving the wintry elements. On average we had 6.5 people on day trips and 4.8 people on overnight trips. The largest group on a day trip was 14 to Diggers Hut with Mick Leyland. The largest overnight group was 10 to the Mid-winter Celebrations at Kawhatau Base, followed closely by 9 on both the Abel Tasman National Park Trip with Janet Wilson on Queens Birthday Weekend and the Taranaki Circuit (FE) with Jean Garman in September. Of the 95 or so trips programmed some 23% did not go for weather or other reasons, which is a bit better than some previous years.

Search and Rescue

About 15 club members are involved as SAR volunteers and fortunately there was only one call out this year, which was cancelled before the team left town. There has been continuing strong support from the local Police to ensure that volunteers are well-trained. Members attended a variety of courses throughout the year, culminating in the recent SAREX. Terry Crippen deserves special mention again for his role as secretary for the local Land SAR committee and up and coming Search Adviser.

Gear

Subsequent to amending a couple of clauses in the Club Constitution at the last AGM, we have made the most of our tax-exempt and charitable status by purchasing four avalanche transceivers with funding from Eastern and Central Trust. These will be used for Snowcraft instruction and will also be available for hire.

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.

Interaction with DoC

Doc has continued to run User Group meetings about every 4 months to keep us up to date with what they are doing locally. A special public meeting was also held in November at Te Manawa to present DoC proposals for huts and tracks as part of a national consultation process. The Committee sent a submission generally supporting the proposals and congratulating DoC on their excellent work, which essentially recommended retaining the existing network in the Ruahine and Tararua Ranges.

The club has for many years now not been involved in maintaining any tracks or huts, except for some support to the Heretaunga Tramping Club for Howletts Hut. It is therefore pleasing to see that there is a club trip going this weekend to help with the Pinus contorta eradication programme on the south flanks of Ruapehu.

Newsletter and Web-site

You will have noticed a change in the Newsletter since Doug Strachan took over as editor in May. Doug has endured some vigorous debate from the committee to develop his own delightful editorial style and the newsletter content to make it a more informative and fun read. We have also been giving another printer a trial to achieve a higher quality product, and we are now keen to hear from you whether it is worth the extra cost.

The web-site is proving to be a wonderful portal to the outside world and Peter Wiles has immersed himself enthusiastically in his role of web-master. The photo section is arranged according to trips and is well worth a visit. There are also pdf versions of each newsletter available. We have been getting 7-9 visits to the home-page each day and it now remains for us to see if members would like to go more "green" in favour of the web rather than receiving the paper copy of the

newsletter – perhaps by the introduction of a discounted membership subscription.

Thanks

Finally I would like to thank all those who have helped in running the club over the past year. Special thanks to David Grant as Secretary, Peter Wiles as Treasurer and to our Committee members, particularly to Snowcraft co-ordinators Terry Crippen and Bruce van Brunt; trip co-ordinators, especially Janet Wilson; and supper co-ordinators Elaine Herve and Doug Strachan. Special thanks also to our publicity agents Monica Cantwell and Richard Lockett for continuing to promote the club by putting up flyers on community notice boards around Palmerston North and Feilding.

And lastly, thanks to all of you for supporting the club, and for helping to give the club the reputation it enjoys.

May the skies be blue
And the route be true.

Warren Wheeler
President PNTMC
25 March 2004

Portal to the Past

September 1968 newsletter:

"Members are requested to join a party to move our stove from the dropping place which is above the Rangī Hut down to it..."

"Food for thought - The colour of a red deer varies between red and grey, depending on the time of the year. What colour clothing do you wear??? Blue, green, yellow and white are colours that are less deer than red, brown, grey, orange and black."

NOTICES

From the President, Subs due, Snowcraft, New Trips Card, Kaweka Challenge

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES can be e-mailed to doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz or delivered to 1 Worsfold Lane, PN

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PC

The AGM in March resulted in a resounding vote of confidence in the existing four Club Officers with all being re-elected unopposed. The eight-member Committee was also elected unanimously, with the addition of Anja Scholz and Alisdair Noble to replace Elaine Hervé who stepped down – thanks for your involvement over the last few years Elaine.

The AGM agreed to introduce a new type of subscription to encourage usage of our website and allow those who didn't want to receive a copy of the newsletter by mail to save some money – see Notices for details.

After dispatching the AGM business we kicked off the Gear Auction with a selection of historical relics (well-worn boots), which attracted bids from antiquarians and keen gardeners. Unexpected bidding wars resulted in some surprises and there were some real bargains to be had despite the efforts of the auctioneer to fatten bids. Only one item did not reach its reserve. A bivvy bag was unsold and ended up donated by Alan Bee to the Club Gear4Hire.

Thanks to all those who provided an eclectic selection of items which included ice screws, a dome tent (unused), a 1948 framed photo of Mt Aspiring, a bird poster, appliqué wall hanging, Alpine Plants book, Army Surplus bivvy bags (3), aluminium fuel bottles ("pre-loved"), a gas cooker (unused), and much more. Proceeds from sales were subject to a commission on a donation basis but thanks to the generosity of the sellers the club was the main beneficiary from the event.

And now the mountains are coated in snow already and autumn is bringing ideal tramping weather – not too hot or cold. It's great to see new faces on club trips and at club nights and I look forward to seeing more of you out there.

Happy tramping
Warren Wheeler
President PNTMC

SUBS ARE NOW DUE

At the AGM it was agreed that the club offer on a trial basis the choice of a reduced subscription for those members who would prefer to access the newsletter from our website rather than receive a copy by mail.

This e-sub would be more environmentally friendly and less costly (unless you want to print off the newsletter!). It would help to encourage the use of the website, which effectively provides a storage library for photos and newsletters. There is also the advantage of seeing the photos in the newsletters in colour.

The e-sub would include the FMC subscription, and you would still receive the FMC magazine and Trip Card mailouts.

How would it work? You would be sent an email reminder that the newsletter was now available on-line. All you need to do to set this up is to send an email to the Newsletter Distributor and Webmaster Peter Wiles at P.WILES@wiles.gen.nz.

Many of you will no doubt continue to prefer the newsletter by mail - it is easy to pick up and read and good to hand on to friends...and you can still use the web as well.

So, this years subs are now due. Please make your cheques out to PNTMC and mail to PO Box 1217, Palmerston North or hand directly to Peter Wiles at Club Night.

Individual sub	\$30
Family sub	\$35
Individual e-sub	\$20
Family e-sub	\$25

WANT TO TRAMP AND CLIMB IN THE SNOW? SNOWCRAFT INSTRUCTION 2004 Early notice

Winter is on its way, so you may be interested in the Club's comprehensive snowcraft programme. This programme has two aims: Firstly, to equip trampers with the necessary skills for safe travel in snow, be it on winter trips, or summer trips above the snowline. Secondly; to pass on the fundamental skills for snow climbing and mountaineering. The programme consists of three weekends away (Friday night departure) a fortnight apart (on Ruapehu and Egmont) and

three evening sessions prior to each weekend. A progressive approach is used, with Snowcraft 1 assuming little or no previous snow experience, and Snowcraft 2 and 3 building on the previous levels.

Most participants enrol in the complete programme, while others just in Snowcraft 1 and 2. Numbers are limited so enrol now to confirm a place.

Dates are as follows:

Close off date for applications is 12th August.

Snowcraft 1 21 - 22 Aug (evening Tues 17 Aug)

Snowcraft 2 4 - 5 Sept (evening Wed 1 Sept)

Snowcraft 3 18 - 19 Sept (evening Wed 15 Sept)

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

TRIP CARD

Her name's Janet Wilson; her phone number is 329 4722, and she wants to hear from would-be trip leaders. Janet is putting together the July-Dec trip card. It's time for people with good ideas to grab the weekend/s of their choice.

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 Merv Matthews 357 2858, or Liz Flint 356 7654.

THE KAWEKA CHALLENGE, 28-29 FEB BY TONY GATES

Coast to Coast legend George Christison (the one who overtook Steve Gurney) is a Kaweka Challenge legend of long standing. In the single day events, his name stands on many of the speed records, and on the February 2004 event, he won the first course by a good margin. He was very impressive to watch. Some names of club members are there in the record books too, as PNTMC members have done pretty well in this grueling event. Overnight courses are definitely where club members excel, being good pack

horses, and enjoying the longer events. During 28- 29 February 2004, Llew Pritchard, Tony Gates, Janet Wilson, Nigel Gregory, Mick Leyland (and some friends) all competed in the Kaweka Challenge.

Saturday dawned damp and dark, with little prospect of improvement. The respective courses departed Kuripapango between 7.30 AM and 9.30 AM, and all clambered up to Kiwi Saddle in steadily worsening weather. Storm clothing was essential. Castle Camp was buffeted by fierce winds, and rain was whipped from the tussock. Competitors struggled, but seldom were unhappy. The longer courses were shortened to descend McIntosh Spur, and looking along the ridge to Kaweka J, it was easy to understand why. Once in the shelter of the Contorta, travel was rapid to the flats. For me, it was a great relief to reach the lovely campsite of McIntosh Hut. It rained heaps that afternoon as all of the competitors sorted out their respective camps, and for me, there was little incentive to leave my warm and dry pit once in it. It sounded as if the competitors camped up at Makahu Base suffered from more strong winds and rain.

Sunday was a little better. The overnights at Makahu Base ran down the road and were bussed around to Kuripapango, as the Donald River was flooded (hardly surprising really). From McIntosh Hut, we nicked along to the Tutaekuri 3 wide bridge, ran the road, then the pines. Runners were scattered throughout the countryside as planned, because the event is designed for competitors of (nearly) all ages. It was wonderful to finish, and to watch others finish.

Thank you to the land owners, DOC, Heretaunga Tramping Club, Hawkes Bay Orienteering Club, Radio comms, sponsors, and to all of the competitors.



Tony Gates and Lucy Cant at McIntosh Spur

TRIP REPORTS

SAREX, Contorta Slaughter, Cattle Creek, EGGmont, Tunipo

SAREX (Search and Rescue Exercise) 20-21 March "Lost your lunch?" By Lance Gray

This years SAREX was based in and around Dannevirke with the SAR Base (management and communications' teams) at the Dannevirke Police Station and the Forward Base (searchers and the helicopter) at the Tamaki West Road end. A special thanks to Mr Simms for the use of his property in supporting the exercise. PNTMC members involved were Jean Garman as part of the Search Planning/Scenario Committee (Jean along with Janet Wilson dreamed up the scenario of six teenagers with a trip leader who drops dead on the track on their way to Takapari Trig and understandably fail to rendezvous with a party who was to meet them at Stanfield Hut coming from the Tamaki West Road End ...)

Terry Crippen was part of the Search Management Team at the Dannevirke SAR Base. Search party members for Team Two were Nigel Gregory (Team Leader), Doug Strachan, Richard Lockett and Lance Gray. Jenny McCarthy of PNTMC was part of the Manawatu Tramping Club's Team Four.



Lance, Richard, Nigel & Doug to the Rescue!

Janet Wilson (16 years old with brittle bone disease) and Graham Peters (18 years old and similarly afflicted) were PNTMC's lost party contribution.

As can be gathered, a SAREX is a complex logistical exercise with scenarios created, management and communications' teams organised, lost parties briefed and inserted, search teams organised, briefed and tasked ... At the sharp end there were seven search teams. There were supposed to be eight but the students (MUAC) covered themselves in glory by pulling out due to intoxication. For Team Two (PNTMC) the wind on Saturday morning turned us into mere spectators as the Airforce's Iroquois broke down and we were sent in what appeared to be the opposite direction of where all the action was. We did however have a four hour morning tea in the woolshed which Doug used to catch up on some sleep, again much to the chagrin of Terry who paid a snap visit. You got a bullseye painted on you Doug!! Our original task, with hindsight, would have seen us taking the Iroquois onto the tops of the Ruahine's for a probable meeting with the lost lunch camped in and around Takapari Trig. Communications' protocols mean that if a search team has found someone they believe has deceased you don't get on the radio and say they're dead. Instead you say " ... we have found the lost party and they have 'lost their lunch.'"

Late on Saturday afternoon after Team Two had listened to all the action coming from the opposite direction, we were tasked to camp in a highly visible spot in and around where the Rimu track met the Tamaki Stream just south of Stanfield Hut. Comfortable camping spots were not in abundance and so to meet the criteria Nigel made the executive decision to camp on the Rimu Track. The saving grace of our fly camp was that it didn't rain and that daylight saving gave us an extra hours sleep . At 7:30am we were tasked to search the stream adjacent to the Rimu track and go as far as we could up the stream. Doug drew the short straw for being our communications expert and stayed at the intersection with a non-compliant mountain radio (Condor) while Injun Joe Lockett took the lead in the track and clue awareness sweep of the stream.

Not far up the stream Richard found a fresh footprint before Nigel spotted the red gas bottle of the hearing deficient lost party of Janet and Graham. Excitement at finding a lost party turns to terror as you try and gather your thoughts as to what to do next. New to the radio I had the task of giving our position and the message that we had found the lost party. This first part went fine. The second part required a long message which I had

to read and interpret resulting in some minor confusion between team members. Alas we got through and remain friends - just. After receiving the message to return to Forward Base with a miraculously healed Graham, we picked up a lonely Doug who was wondering if we had abandoned him so there was a group hug all round (not!) and we walked back down the Tamaki stream for the debrief with compulsory beer in hand at the woolshed. The barbecued venison was a particular highlight for participants.

A special thanks to Nigel Gregory for his leadership of Team Two. Nigel often wondered at the selection criteria for his appointment but as Richard, Doug and I can attest he was the ideal person for the job – thank you Nigel.

Contorta Slaughter, 27-28 March By Janet Wilson

We were Nigel and Suzanne Gregory, Richard Lockett, Craig Allerby, Terry Crippen, Warren Wheeler, Graham Peters and Janet Wilson.

It seemed to take a bit of organising, but it finally settled on 3 vehicles and 9 people leaving from various places to meet up outside the mill at Tangiwai, at 8.30am on Saturday morning. Terry arrived last, with Craig but no Heather. Some speculation on what may have happened to her, had Terry just missed her at Foodtown or had she missed her ride back from the rugby in Wellington the night before?

Jo Meys from DOC was soon there to show us the way through the maze of forestry roads to the "Fijians Camp". This was pretty basic but soon made comfortable with tarps, gas cookers and a gas brazier! We set up our tents, had a cuppa, a health and safety briefing (sort of) and then, armed with small saws, it was off to work. Our task was to tidy up areas that may have been missed by previous groups, as this was the last weekend of the programme for this summer. The area we covered was mostly above the scrub zone and was fairly easy going. We soon learnt what a P. contorta seedling looked like, and although they weren't plentiful, we all found a few to pull out. It was windy on the Saturday, enough to blow you over if you are small and the very dry conditions meant that there were dust storms and it was pretty hard on the eyes. We worked the area methodically in a line, *Terry in his element Terrying at one end, and Jo at the other*. We worked till about 4pm, then back to camp for a feed and natter, huddled around the very welcome heater.

It rained over night, which settled the dust, but it also meant a change to a Southwesterly. With a few more clothes on, we hit the slopes again. It was a lot more pleasant not being sandblasted, until it started to snow! Lots of big, wind blown flakes had us finishing the higher area quickly and we retreated to the much more sheltered lower gully for the rest of the day. Jo seemed pleased with what we'd achieved and we finished early and were back at the camp for a late lunch and early getaway. Final tally for the seedlings was, from memory, nearly 100.

Had a call from Heather Sunday evening - she'd slept in, driven herself to Tangiwai, hung around till lunchtime trying to contact Jo on her cellphone to find us, given up and gone home - good try Heather, sorry you weren't with us.

Thank you to the people who supported the club this weekend - it was a bit disappointing to not have a bigger turnout.

Cattle Creek, 4 April By Anja Scholz

At 7 am (yawn) on Sunday we assembled at and subsequently departed from Mick's place – "we" being Llew (trip leader) and Jenny Prichard, Mick and Marion Leyland, newcomers Heather and Natalie, and Anja Scholz.

Taking in the always looked forward to and each time delightful detour over the Pahiatua Track we eventually shouldered our mighty daypacks for the tramp at just after 9am, starting up the Tamaki River towards Stan(d? make up your minds mapmakers!)field Hut which was reached at 10:30 for breakfast (not ours obviously, but that of the people who had stayed there overnight). The going was easy and we carried on after a short break towards the ridge, which soon provided a slight quickening of the heartrate on the incline.

On reaching the small saddle we decided to go to Cattle Creek Hut via the streambed and come back via the ridge. The stream route had the advantage of being out of the wind, and as the sun was out it was a pleasant stroll down the creek gravel. Conveniently fallen logs of all shapes and sizes that needed to be climbed over, scrambled under and squeezed beside made sure that all upper and lower body muscle groups were equally utilized and rendered future gym visits obsolete (not so sure about future physiotherapist visits...). Also, our duckability and side-steppability was tested by branches sticking out at generally eye-gouging level. But doggedly we followed the twisting and turning creek to the plateau on which Cattle Creek Hut is situated, with good views and

right in the path of the wind, e.g. we had a nice lunch INSIDE (side note: do NOT keep an opened packet of milk powder even to its best before date, it goes all lumpy and smells funny albeit is not quite lethal yet).

Next we set off for the short sharp pain in the butt, forcing the last of the unused muscle groups to propel us up to the top of the ridge beside the hut. The wind found us as soon as we got to the top and the signpost there provided a welcome steadying device. Over the first couple of hundred metres *the wind made us practice a sort of homo-not-quite-erectus walk* to prevent us being bowled over, but soon the track dipped into the scrub and walking was easy and rather flat. Heather took some pains over getting the perfect rainbow backgrounded group picture which will hopefully get us some monetary returns if it ever gets used for one of Craig Potton's calendars. Or for Tony's, of course.

The ridge back down to the Tamaki was negotiated somewhat quicker down than up, and Stan(d?)field – Sit-field at this point in time – Hut again provided the backdrop for a break. Rain threatened at this point, but never made good on the threat after all. Thankfully we had refused to put on raincoats. As we were keen to return via the small ridge and farmtrack, Llew, Heather and I took this route back, and dropped back to the carpark on the well worn and marked track which did not seem to be on the map (??), while the others followed the streambed back. It was a wonderful trip in respect of route, weather and company, and we made it back to Palmy early enough to enjoy the Sunday evening and in time for the rain to set in.

Easter EGGmont, on Easter Monday By Adrienne Cavanagh

Led by Warren Wheeler but followed closely by Christine Cheyne, Adrienne Cavanagh, Doug Strachan, Yuko Watanabe, Richard Lockett, Duncan Hedderley and Jennifer Infanti.

This was the first trip I have taken now as a fully-fledged member of the PNTMC. After tagging along on many trips previously I felt obliged to do this trip report. I learnt quickly about Warren's reputation at creating a real adventure and this trip was no different. The song 'Four Seasons in one day' by Crowded House could describe this experience quite well and I could have easily changed the lyrics to suit.

We left a lovely sunrise and the makings of a beautiful Palmerston North day on Easter Monday for the delights Taranaki country was about to deliver. If you wanted to assure yourself winter had arrived this was the tramping trip to be on. It was a mind-blowing experience and the cheapest blow wave I have ever had for my hair.

An integral item of the pack this trip was of course an Easter egg and it seemed they hadn't all been consumed over the weekend. This led to great comparisons in 'egg size' from everyone at each rest stop throughout the tramp.

After walking for only 20min from the Stratford Plateau to the Manganui ski field the first rest stop beckoned for the ceremonial Easter egg cracking and to view the progress of the new ski hut. Due to the dissatisfaction of no snow at this level we headed around the mountain track via Warwick's Castle to Taurangi private hut before venturing further north up the 'staircase' to the real action for a bit of a snowfight.

We worked out that we reached an altitude of 1700m, however, the higher we climbed, the weather as expected also deteriorated. It was a real taste of walking in mountain snow for Duncan and myself even if it is common on flat ground in my hometown of Invercargill. We were happy we didn't have to venture down the same way as we had ascended so our great leader took us off the main track. A safer route was the old moss coated route towards Humphries' Castle even if it wasn't recommended by the authorities; however, the wind tried its best to blow us off the mountain instead.

The many rainbows witnessed during the day were a nice reprieve from the gusty winds, rain, sleet and snow, and proved that the sun was trying to shine at times. We kept chasing the pot of gold at the end but unfortunately all came home only richer in experience.

Doug admitted that his chocolate habit had finally been satisfied for one day as he couldn't even face a hot chocolate at the mountain house on the way home. This ended up being a first tea break for most of us to prevent having to cook when returning home.

In true tramping style we had enough breaks to keep up the energy levels but also got the heart rate going enough on the uphill climbs. The day was refreshing and a relatively pleasant day of exercise despite the weather. I'm sure we will all be back for more as we head into winter.



Warren Ceremoniously Breaks Egg



Humphries' Castle

Tunupo Peak I, 18th April by Anja Scholz

(Angela Hartman, Barbara Mare, Doug Strachan, Katrin Daehnel, Mick but not Marion Leyland, Neil Campbell, Warren Wheeler, and, nearly, by a finger's breadth, Anja Scholz and Lance Gray)

For my first go at leading a tramping trip, I had diligently followed the instructions, tips and tricks of the "Leading a club tramping trip" leaflet, had made phonecalls, estimated petrol costs, filled out the pink "SAR" sheet, put plenty of money into the sun-meter, and was happy that a total of nine people had signed up for the trip. At 7:30 am we assembled as usual at a well known carpark in town. The first casualty of the day was Marion Leyland – this is not the place to disclose why - so Mick had a spare seat in his truck, and had the benefit of the lunch that Marion had prepared for herself. We set off towards the hills which past Kimbolton became increasingly foggy, but it looked as if it would soon clear.

All arrived well at the carpark, and I climbed briskly out of the car and slammed the car door shut. And learnt by rather painful experience the very valuable health lesson that it pays to account for the whereabouts of all one's fingers before slamming a car door shut, as I looked in horror at my left index finger which was still stuck in the door. Hooray (the actual pain and swear words going through my head are censored here). Mick suggested I stick the finger into the nearby pond to quickly cool it, Barbara came up with some shock relief remedy, Angela pulled out her Ibuprofen, and Warren reassuringly started talking of the "hot needle through the fingernail to relieve the pressure of the blood" procedure (which about-to-become-a-doctor Katrin told me was something she had witnessed and which was "not a pretty sight!". Gulp). I started feeling a bit light-headed, so sat down and contemplated the "why me, God?" question that has led to many a person becoming an atheist.

Well, I did not feel like doing, let alone leading, a 1000 m climb tramping trip, and so it was decided that, there being plenty of assistant trip leaders, Lance and I would stay put for awhile, and all others move towards the summit. They were greatly envied by me.

After a wait of about half an hour I decided that the full trip was not on the cards, and I was not greatly inspired to do an hour's tramp to the bridge and back, so we left and headed back to Palmy. A latte at the Kimbolton Café somewhat revived me, but I noticed that even a bit of walking made the finger pulsate as if doing a night club routine to house music. Well, there were other ways to spend the afternoon. For instance 4 hours at Palmerston North Hospital A&E. Being more of an A than an E, I was certainly not placed in a priority queue, but at least my mind was set to rest finding out that the finger was only shaken, not stirred, I mean broken.

To tempt fate, I am considering offering another Tunupo Peak trip later in the year. Part II (rest of the party) next newsletter.

THE WHO DID WHAT LIST for the 2003-2004 year (1 April to 31 March)

By Terry

As for the last few years I have compiled a list of what South Island, overseas and/or longer trips and activities club members have undertaken; either privately, as club trips, or in other ways. The idea of this list, besides being a record of some of the activities of club members, is to enthuse (hopefully) all of us to get out and about more often and to visit different places. I'm sure those club members listed will be only too willing to pass on info about the areas mentioned.

NOTE: A single name doesn't imply a solo trip; only club members and past club members are listed. And naturally the list is not exhaustive.

* denotes ascent

April 03

Hump track	Fiordland	Malcolm & Edith Leary	
Masons Bay	Stewart Island	Malcolm & Edith Leary	
Heaphy Track	Kahurangi NP	Barry Scott, Elaine Herve, Yuko Watanabe, Terry Crippen	
Cupola Basin	Nelson Lakes NP	Terry Crippen, Elaine Herve, Heike Hahn	*Cupola, *Hopeless

May 03

County Valley	Westland	Pete McGregor	
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June 03

Abel Tasman coast track	Abel Tasman NP	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, Warren Wheeler, Ian Harding, Mick & Marion Leyland, Yuko Watanabe, Nigel Gregory	
Kayaking	Abel Tasman NP	Heike Hahn	

July 03

Cass-Lagoon Saddle	Craieburn FP	Terry Crippen, Nigel Scott	
Travers Valley	Nelson Lakes NP	Malcolm Leary, Terry Crippen	*Cupola, *Hopeless

August 03

Cycling	South Germany	Lance Gray	
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Oct 03

Baton & Leslie, Tablelands	Kahurangi NP	Craig Allerby, Christine Cheyne, Terry Crippen, Tony Gates, Elaine Herve, Peter Wiles	*Peel, *Arthur
Mts Own & Bell; caving	Kahurangi NP	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters	

Nov 03

Matakutaki Valley	Mt Aspiring NP	Bruce van Brunt, Malcolm Leary	*Aspiring
Hooker Valley, Copland Pass	Mt Cook, Westland NPs	Bruce & Anastasia van Brunt, Malcolm Leary	

Dec 03

Tasman Valley	Mt Cook NP	Andrew Lynch	*Aiguilles Rouges
NW Circuit, Stewart Is	Rakaura NP	Anja Scholz	
Lake Angelus	Nelson Lakes NP	Anja Scholz	
GB Forest	Gt Barrier Island	Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne	
Lake Waikarimoana	Urewera NP	Tony Gates, Yvonne van der Does, Sally Hewson, Dennis Moore	

January 04

Wanganui Valley	Westland	Tony Gates, Alaster Millward	
Wanganui & Evans Valleys	Westland	Terry Crippen, Andrew Lynch, Pete McGregor, Jonathan Astin	*Lord
Haast	Mt Aspiring NP	Andrew Lynch	*Brewster
Remarkables	Otago	Andrew Lynch	*Single, *Double Cones
Lewis to Arthurs Pass	Lake Sumner & Arthurs Pass NPs	Warren Wheeler, Peter Wiles, Anja Scholz, Craig Allerby	
Arthurs Pass NP		Warren Wheeler, Craig Allerby	*Avalanche
Temple Col, Edwards Valley	Arthurs Pass NP	Warren Wheeler	*Bowers
Cass Valley, Lagoon Saddle	Craieburn FP	Warren Wheeler	
Matukituki Valley	Mt Aspiring NP	Terry Crippen, Jonathan Astin	*Aspiring, *Rolling Pin, *Bevan, *Rob Roy
Hapuku & Kowhai Valleys	Kaikouras	Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne	*Fyffe
Lake Minchin, Minster Saddle	Arthurs Pass NP	Liz Morrison	

February 04

Cycling	Gt Barrier Island	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters	
Greenstone, Caples Valleys	Wakatipu area	WaraTeeranitamkul	
Kepler Track	Fiordland NP	WaraTeeranitamkul	
Dart, Rees, Whitborne Valleys	Mt Aspiring NP	Peter Wiles, Chris Saunders	

March 04

Tramping	Argentina	Tony Gates	
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Club Patron	Lawson Pither	357 3033	
President	Warren Wheeler	356 1998	warren.wheeler@horizons.govt.nz
Vice President	Terry Crippen	356 3588	bluesky_tramping@clear.net.nz
Secretary	Dave Grant	357 8269	gaewyn.grant@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer & Webmaster	Peter Wiles	558 6894	p.wiles@wiles.gen.nz
Membership Enquires	Warren Wheeler	356 1998	warren.wheeler@horizons.govt.nz
	Anja Scholz	356 6454	a.scholz@massey.ac.nz
	Mick Leyland	358 3183	
Gear Custodian	Mick Leyland	358 3183	
Newsletter Editor	Doug Strachan	353 6526	doug.strachan@xtra.co.nz
Trip Co-ordinators	Terry Crippen	356 3588	bluesky_tramping@clear.net.nz
	Janet Wilson	329 4722	jwilson@inspire.net.nz
	Tony Gates	357 743	leatherwood@peconnect.co.nz
Aides de Camp	Andrew Lynch	325 8779	atlynch@ihug.co.nz
	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761	B.vanBrunt@massey.ac.nz
	Alasdair Noble	356 1094	a.d.noble@massey.ac.nz