



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - May 2005

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.

**12 May Club Night - The Copland
Bruce van Brunt**

Contrary to what you might have read in Wilderness Magazine you can still complete the Copland. Bruce has completed the Copland on a number of occasions and will take you through this fascinating section of Mt Cook National Park.

**19 May Committee Meeting –
The Waterford**

**26 May Club Night – Great Barrier
Island Lance Gray**

The Barrier has received a lot of attention recently from PNTMC members and it was from such sources that Anja and I decided to go look for ourselves in November 2004. Apart from its excellent walks the Barrier has a fascinating history and significant current issues that the rest of New Zealand can learn from. Come along and join the debate.

Articles to Lance gray.family@actrix.co.nz or post to 37 Parata Street, Palmerston North (by 20th of the month)

TRIPS

**Apr/May 30-1 Leon Kinvig Hut M
Craig Allerby 323-7913**

Up either Knight's or Short's track through to Leon Kinvig Hut for the night. Return in similar fashion. Leon Kinvig Hut lies along the Pohangina River which is home to blue duck. A trip with Craig will always be a cruisy occasion so don't miss the opportunity to chill out in the Ruahines.

**May 1 Kaiparoro E
Chris Saunders 358-4899**

Depart 8.30am from Countdown. Enjoy a short climb to 811 metres on the end of an eastern spur of the Tararuas. Interesting views – interesting landscape - afternoon coffee at Mount Bruce. With last years record at 16 attendees, and the Kaiparoro in similar territory, this is a "must do" on the trip calendar.

**May 7-8 Triangle Hut M/F
Jenny McCarthy 06 376-8838**

Weather permitting I am planning to go in via the Rangi Road end. Going up the Dead Man Track and along the tops dropping down to the hut. Another great spot in the Ruahines for those wishing to push themselves a little bit further than Rangi Hut.

**May 8 Rangi Hut M
Martin Lawrence 357-1695**

Leaving Countdown at 8am. Rangi Hut used to be PNTMC's responsibility but is now happily ensconced within DOC. Come along just to debate how to get around the slip. As the notices further on show, a trip to Rangi Hut cannot now be rated easy, but rather, interesting!

May 14-15 Ruapehu Ramble M
Richard Lockett

Leaving Countdown at 8am Richard will be exploring the southern aspect of Mt Ruapehu with a look at Lake Surprise, at least three waterfalls, and an overnight at possibly Blyth Hut. Based in and around the Turoa Road this will be a fascinating weekend's exploration. Be prepared for a little bit of snow!

May 15 Three Johns Waipawa M/F
Peter Wiles 358-6894

Leave from Countdown 7 am. Will travel up Waipawa Valley to Waipawa Saddle and depending on conditions aim for Three Johns and over the top and down the other side to complete a round trip, hopefully.

May 21-22 Mitre Flats / Mitre E/M & M/F
Doug Strachan 353-6526

Leave Countdown at 8am. This is a weekend for everyone in the club. A good opportunity to catch up with Doug and his travels and married life. Based at Mitre Flats Hut you can revel in the comfort of the accommodation or be tempted into climbing the highest peak in the Tararua Range.

May 22 Roaring Stag Hut M/F
Malcolm Parker 357-5203

Meeting at the Countdown carpark for a 7.00 am start. This is a really nice area of the Tararuas in behind Eketahuna. We aim to be at the Roaring Stag hut site for lunch. But the question is "where will the hut be?" DOC is currently in the process of building a new Roaring Stag hut. The new hut will not be finished until mid June so this could be your last chance to see the old Roaring Stag. But it sounds like it will be quite an improvement - with running water, a wood burner and a 2 metre deck on two sides. We return the same way we went in.

May 28-29 Haurangi Range M/F
Graham Peters 329-4722

Camping at the Pinnacles campsite Friday night, ending up at the Mangatoetoe Stream close to the Palliser lighthouse on Sunday afternoon. To quote from a guide book to the Haurangi Forest Park - "This attractive bush traverse sidles the Haurangi Forest Park on good tracks via 4 huts. Lots of up and down tramping, but the teeming birdlife, healthy forest, occasional views over the coast and nifty campsites more than compensate the visitor on this private and rather personal mountain track."

May 29 Hemi Matenga E
Liz Morrison 04 293-1430

Join local Waikanae resident Liz for a guided tour of Waikanae's gem: the Hemi Matenga bush walk. Liz says that bushwalk will also be followed by a very comfortable afternoon tea and a beach walk. You can also sleep in with a suggested leaving time from Countdown of 9am. Please contact Liz so she can organise to meet you all at the Rest Area just inside the 50km zone on the left in Waikanae. This trip will happen regardless of the weather.

Trip participants:

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Countdown 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 Tony Gates (357-7439).

Trips

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

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)

From the Editor's Desk

Congratulations to Graham Peters for a fine 50th birthday bash. A night at Daytona go-karts has become a regular on the "informal" trip card. After my third attempt I have now found the brakes, and what a difference they make! Congratulations to Nigel Gregory for the fastest time, leading the winning team and easily out entusing the rest of us. We all think Nigel should take up motor-racing given his form. Graham's speech at the Rose & Crown (compulsory post-race debrief) commented that it was "nice" to have celebrated his birthday in this fashion. Graham was still excited by the prospect of his birthday present: a helicopter flight where apparently he would get to grab the controls!

Highlight for many of us were three mementos created by Yuko Watanabe. First, we had a card depicting how to patch various items of clothing; very useful for Graham! Inside this card Yuko made some telling comments about Graham that we all agreed with, though Yuko did ask that he stop teasing her. The second item was a tastefully framed photograph of Graham holding a valued item: his jersey. Finally we had the same

photo, unframed, in the form made famous by Murray Ball, creator of Footrot Flats. Each aspect of Graham's fine physical features carried with it a beautifully handwritten comment. For example, Graham's beautiful eyes ... (well you can imagine the rest). We will miss you Yuko.

Life Members Peter Wiles & Terry Crippen

Congratulations to Peter Wiles and Terry Crippen for their inauguration as life members of PNTMC. Peter spoke briefly to the AGM saying that in many ways he was surprised to still be alive. He reminded us all about Trevor Bissell. Peter also recounted a trip with Derek Sharp on the Cameron Glacier when a volume of ice of unimaginable size had fallen across the path they had taken only the day before. Peter also remembered with great mirth at a stroke he thought he'd had camping at 1600m in the

Arthur's Pass region, only to find he had inadvertently swapped Terry's glasses for his own!

Terry Crippen re-enforced Peter's thoughts about Trevor. Terry reminded us about Trevor's house in Carroll St with the footprints on the ceiling where PNTMC members had been practising their climbing. Terry also recalled his first trip in the Ngamoko Range and thought that PNTMC, to use Terry language, were a bunch of "fit buggers". We all learnt that Terry at one point had totally given up tramping and sold all his gear. For us new members this was an astonishing revelation! The evening reminded us all of the tremendous contribution that Peter and Terry have made to PNTMC. This includes snow-craft, search & rescue, executive positions and generally providing the impetus and enthusiasm to organise brilliant trips. We thank them once more.



Jo O'Halloran, Terry Crippen and Trevor Bissell enjoy baguettes in the 1980's.

My thanks to Tony Gates for finding this gem in his vast collection. Tony was rather cryptic in his explanation for the above photograph so I have refrained from guessing as to what and where was going on. In the next newsletter when I have caught up with at least one of the models, possibly more light can be shed. I asked Tony for

a photograph of Trevor Bissell because of his significance to Terry and Peter, and so was thrilled to receive this photo.

PNTMC - President's Report - March 2005

It is with pleasure that I present the 39th President's Report.

Membership

We have welcomed 4 new members over the last year with a loss of 8, so current membership now totals 66. This includes 9 families or couples, and 57 individuals, with a 57:43 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.

Mid-Winter celebrations at Tongariro were a memorable highlight for the social climbers, while the real climbers were active on both club and private trips throughout the year. New ascent records were set on the east face of Mt Cook, 58,000mm above sea-level, further establishing the club as a proving ground for aspiring mountaineers(!).

Club nights were generally well-attended and included slide presentations by club members on climbing Mount Tasman, trekking and climbing in Nepal, trekking in the Andes, an attempt to climb La Perouse via the Cook River, climbing in Scotland and beyond, a foreigners impressions of touring NZ - Out of Aotearoa, a journey to the Philippines to Mt Pinatubo, and stunning images of our Coastal Wilderness. Guest speakers gave presentations on climbing Mt Everest and Shishapangma, tramping in Fiordland, tramping across Baffin Island, applying computer technology to Search and Rescue, and a historical perspective of the Ruahines in the footsteps of Colenso. We also had two BYO slides evenings, Indoor Rock Climbing at City Rock, a wine and cheese evening at Mountain Equipment, Club photo competition, and another light-hearted but challenging Navigation Night as a fill-in due to a postponement.

In September the MTSC hosted the Interclub Photo Competition and members scooped a good share of the prizes from the best of local outdoor photographers. The Interclub Quiz was cancelled this year due to other commitments.

The End-of-Year BBQ at Ashhurst Domain was well attended despite the threatening weather, which failed to dampen spirits or interrupt the Annual Awards. The celebrations ended magnificently with a fantastic fireworks display thanks to Meridian Energy opening the Te Apiti Wind Farm on the same night. The January BBQ at Horseshoe Bend was a more relaxed affair enjoyed in fine weather again.

Snowcraft 1, 2, and 3 continue to provide valuable instruction to both members and non-members with Terry Crippen again ensuring their success despite injury barring his attendance on SC3. Thanks also to Bruce van Brunt, Alasdair Noble and Peter Darragh 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 and Southern Crossing race recently.

Past Trips

An analysis of past trips this year shows that April was the most popular month for tramping with 53 members and non-members on trips. This was followed closely by May and August with 43, January with 42 and February with 40. The worst month (excluding December with 19) was March with 26 people, well up on last year's worst of only 17. On average we had 6.7 people on day trips and 6.1 people on overnight trips, which again is more than last year. The largest group on a day trip was 16 to Mt Bruce with Chris Saunders – surely a record. The largest overnight group was 11 on both the Nydia Track at Queens Birthday Weekend, and Snowcraft 1-3. Of 92 programmed trips 27% did not go for weather or other reasons, which is a bit worse than last year – yes, it was a wet year, but even wintry July saw 37 compared with only 17 last year.

Search and Rescue

About 15 club members are involved as SAR volunteers and fortunately there was only one call out this year, which was along the river in 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. Also, Jean Garmin is the Regional Training Coordinator and locally she has initiated monthly refresher training to keep a core of volunteers at peak efficiency.

Gear and Training

A new rope for Snowcraft and Rock-climbing Instruction has been purchased using a donation from Eastern and Central Trust. Thanks to Bruce van Brunt for filling in the paperwork so effectively. Bruce is currently leading the task of purchasing a data projector so we can show digital photos as well as slides at club nights.

Funds for the projector have been boosted thanks to the several club members who have donated the proceeds received from St Peters School for instructing students on their Duke of Edinburgh Award programme. Special thanks to Andrew Lynch for leading this initiative and seeing the opportunity for club members to share their skills with enthusiastic young people.

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. In October three members attended an FMC Above the Bushline Instructors Course in the rock and snow on Ruapehu. This provided a very useful hands-on learning experience as many of those others attending had minimal alpine experience.

Interaction with DoC

Doc has had a major turnover of staff locally and we look forward to a User Group meeting to keep in touch with their work and any issues developing. Further a-field a group of 8 club members enjoyed assisting DoC with its pinus contorta eradication programme on the south flanks of Ruapehu. This worthwhile conservation activity looks set to become an annual fixture on the club calendar.

Newsletter and Web-site

Doug Strachan did a fine job to make the newsletter more informative and fun to read but was obliged to stand down in November due to other commitments. Thanks to Tony Gates for temporarily filling the gap and to Lance Gray for taking on the permanent role in January – we see another distinctive editorial style already developing.

The web-site is proving to be a hit thanks to web-master Peter Wiles. We have recently been getting about 7-12 visits to the home-page each day (compared with 7-9 a year ago). The Events page and the Photos page are most popular, with about 100 visits last month. There is wide variability in the monthly page counts with no clear upward trend. The Newsletter page has steadily increased from a low of 36 in November to 49 in February, still less than 128 in August when there were peaks on most pages – winter's bed-time reading perhaps?

15 club members subscribe as e-members and read their monthly newsletter off the web – clearly the majority of members prefer the paper copy in the hand, but the choice is obviously appreciated.

Thanks

Finally I would like to thank all those who have helped in running the club over the past year. It

has been a more challenging year than usual with Peter Wiles resigning as Treasurer in June, after 20 years in the role. Special thanks to Alasdair Noble for stepping up to this often-daunting task. Thanks also to David Grant as Secretary, to Terry Crippen as trusty Vice-President, to our Committee members, particularly to Snowcraft co-ordinators Terry Crippen and Bruce van Brunt; trip co-ordinators, especially Janet Wilson; and supper co-ordinator and newsletter distributor Anja Scholz. Special mention 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 maintain the reputation that the club enjoys. In particular I would like to thank Peter Wiles for his dedicated support of the Club. Although Peter also resigned from Committee he continues his active involvement in ways small and large. For example as the Club Archivist he has been converting all the old newsletters into digital format, a mammoth task that involves much retyping of faded script to bring colourful trip reports back to life. It is thanks to the strong commitment of such keen and enthusiastic members that the Club will continue to thrive.

May the skies be blue. And the route be true.

Warren Wheeler President PNTMC 31/03/2005



Peter Wiles thanking PNTMC for his life membership at the AGM.

NOTICES

Subs Due, Snowcraft 2005, New Trip Card, Abel Tasman trip is full, DOC Track Report

SUBS ARE NOW DUE

As per the AGM there has been a \$5 increase.
New subscription rates are:

Individual sub \$35
Family sub \$40
Individual e-sub \$25
Family e-sub \$30

Please make your cheques out to PNTMC and mail to PO Box 1217, Palmerston North or hand directly to Alasdair Noble at Club Night.

WANT TO TRAMP AND CLIMB IN THE SNOW? SNOWCRAFT 2005 Preliminary notice

Winter is on its way, so you may be interested in the Club's comprehensive snowcraft programme which has two aims: Firstly, to equip trampers with the necessary skills for safe travel in snow, be it for 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 (Friday night departure to Ruapehu or Egmont) and an evening session 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 enrol 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 **28th July**
Snowcraft 1 6-7 August (evening Tues 2nd)
Snowcraft 2 20-21 August (evening Tues 16th)
Snowcraft 3 27-28 August (evening Wed 24th)

Further info, costs, & registration form; contact Terry Crippen 3563-588, or Bruce van Brunt 328-4761

NEW TRIP CARD

Janet, Tony and Terry will be in contact with you soon (or better still, you contact us) so come up with a trip or two you'd like to lead and be in quick to get the weekend you want - we also welcome suggestions for upcoming trips, whether you are able to lead them or not"

JANET'S ABEL TASMAN TRIP IS FULL

The cars booked to go down to Abel Tasman with Janet are already full. If you want to come you will need to fill up your own car and make a booking.

DOC TRACK REPORT

- Rangiwhahia Track is Open via detour

A detour is in place around the big slip about 20 minutes into the start of the track from the carpark. The detour may add an extra hour onto your trip and is very steep in places. Signs are up at the road end warning of the detour and of the steepness of part of the track. No longer an easy walk.

- Otukota Hut

Big slips on track in from Mokai Station. These are difficult to cross, and extreme care is needed. Alternative route via the next major ridge -Bruce Ridge -further east on Mokai Patea, but is not poled. (Shorter walk via Kawhatau Base / Colenso trig). New fireplace installed in hut.

- Kelly Knight Hut

Farm and river access is now available. However, access through the farm (Pourangaki Access) is by foot only. This will add approximately an hour onto your journey.

- **Otaki Forks Bridge:** A temporary bridge has been constructed to replace the Waiotauru River Suspension bridge destroyed by flooding in January 2005. The temporary bridge, which provides access to the Tararua ranges from the picnic site at Otaki Forks, has a one person load limit. Work has begun on design for a new permanent bridge which we expect will be constructed in the next 12 months.

- Coppermine track is closed until further notice.

This includes access to the Coppermine Loop, Wharite Peak and Billy Goat tracks.

- Roaring Stag Lodge temporary closure

The Roaring Stag Lodge (GR S25 233 497) in the Tararua Forest Park will be closed for the purposes of constructing a new hut on Sunday 17th April until the afternoon of Monday 20th June 2005. Tent sites are available in the valley below the hut.

- Tutuwai Bridge Closed

The Tutuwai Bridge (GR S26 043183) over the Tauherenikau River below Tutuwai Hut is closed due to recent flood damage.

TRIP REPORTS

Easter Egmont, Iron Gates, Arete Biv, Mt Hikurangi, The Lost Track. The who did what list.

Easter Egmont 25/28 March – Heather Purdie

On Thursday night we (being Warren Wheeler, Elaine Hervé, and myself) were already discussing a plan B due to a very bleak forecast. By Friday morning, driving through some very heavy rain showers we covered plans C and D, and by the time we had finished talking to DOC at the Dawson Falls visitor center we had established plan E, and were going for it, despite the conditions. So, Friday afternoon saw us tramp into the Waiau Gorge Hut via the Ihaia Track.

The hut is situated on a lovely terrace, surrounded by very mature forest, with the Brames Falls a short distance further up the valley. After checking out the falls, we had the whole hut to ourselves (advantage of bad weather) and were lulled to sleep by the call of a kiwi. On Saturday morning, trying to decide how to best utilise our time we decided on plan E2, driving 'around the mountain' to North Egmont and setting out on the Pouakai Circuit, starting from the lower Kaiuau Track end.

The high rivers from yesterday had gone down due to breaks in the weather, and it was interesting travel with ladders (good way to conquer a few contour lines in one go), some river crossings and a great diversity of vegetation. At the top of Mt Henry the weather decided to reinforce that the forecast was indeed correct, treating us to a burst of hail and wind, a refreshing change from just 'periods of rain'. Pouakai Hut is another top spot. The weather cleared briefly in the evening to put on the New Plymouth light show, and time was passed in the hut constructing gadgets from out Kinder Surprise Easter eggs (thanks Warren).

On Sunday we set off to Holly Hut. About an hour out Warren realised that he had left his pocketknife behind and decided to leg it back to Pouakai. Elaine and I deduced that it must indeed be a knife with 'extra' value' and we agreed to wait for him at Holly Hut. When we arrived at the hut the sun broke through momentarily so we diverged to Bells Falls, making some photographic attempts with the upcoming club competition in mind. Once the team was all back together we descended (in periods of rain of course) down the less used Kokowai track getting back to the car mid afternoon.

There is plenty of scope around Taranaki to make do with any weather, and it was nice to not have the place crowded out like one would expect on a holiday weekend. However, I am beginning to ponder as to whether this large volcanic cone named Taranaki actually does exist in amongst the cloud somewhere, or whether it is purely mythology and a good way to draw tourists to the region? Anyway....overall, nice huts, fresh air, a few good hills, great vegetative diversity and top company.



Warren & Heather admire a waterfall

Trip to Iron Gates Saturday 2 April

Warren Wheeler, Yuko Watanabe, Craig Ellerby, Neil Campbell, John Freeney and Anne Lawrence joined Terry Crippen on his trip to Iron Gates Hut. When we set off at 7am, it was raining fairly steadily. However, once we got walking the rain dried up and most of the day was fine. Despite a few vehicles at the road end we only saw three other people during the day.

The remains of Heritage Hut caused some discussion. The only thing upright among the ashes was the chimney and the water tank. The track is looking well used, but is in good condition with only a little mud. The slip three quarters of the way to the hut is quite stable and we were comfortable using the path across it. The hut itself has been re-vamped and proved a pleasant spot for lunch. We were intending to complete our return trip by the river. However the river was up a little, the weather was cool and showers were threatening so we opted for the drier route and

retraced our steps. What a surprise to see no chimney when we got to Heritage – energetic people had obviously been in and tidied the site during the day.

The sign claiming 5 hours to Iron Gates is a definite exaggeration. It took us around 3 hours there and a little longer returning as people found the undulations a little more challenging in the afternoon. We stopped in Kimbolton for a coffee by the fire and got back home around 6pm. The trip was pleasant – enough undulations to make us feel we had had a bit of a workout on the tramp, and pleasant company to share some good yarns.

Arete Biv from the west. 19- 20 March 2005. By Tony Gates

Lance was fresh from his success with Sarah in the Tararua mountain Race, simplified to “the TMR” because it was mentioned so often as it was reminisced on this weekend in the Tararuas. Other events too, were mentioned, like the great Kaweka Challenge, and the Jumbo Holdsworth. They are also both fine mountain runs. And many a good tramp was discussed as we sped to the geographic heart of the Tararua Ranges, destination Arete Bivvy. Easterly weather suggested that a westerly approach was the best option, which offers an excellent choice of routes.

We began on the track, then splashed up the Ohau River to the site where South Ohau hut once stood. Nice weather, easy river route. There was a reasonable presence of native birds as we sweated up to Te Matawai Hut. Unfortunately, goats were also present. I can't recall the time that we took to reach the hut, suffice to say that we were moving fairly quickly. After a quick brew, we slogged on up to Pukematawai in clear weather, pausing periodically to admire the numerous alpine flowers. Gentians, Eyebrights, Eidelweiss, and others were all in flower, and there was sign of other flowers not long finished. From there, we entered easterly clag so typical of the Tararuas. Arete peak came and went, and with GPS assistance, we ambled down to Arete Biv. Sometimes, this nice wee dog kennel type hut can be difficult to find. It was a damp little home for the night, obviously suffering from nil maintenance by DOC.

Sunday's weather was more misty clag. It seemed to me somehow standard Tararua fare to peer at the inside of a cloud from the hut door. We made a good get away, and zapped back up to misty Arete, then to semi sunny Pukematawai. Weather progressively improved on the descent,

giving us occasional glimpses of some other Tararua places. Heather, a first timer in these parts, was suitably impressed. There were large tussock and leatherwood areas along Carkeek and Dundas ridges visible to us, and the immense forested Otaki catchment- a true trampers paradise. The track wasn't difficult to follow over to Waiopehu Hut, it just had lots of ups and downs, and warm weather forced us to sweat lots. However, we were soon basking at the palatial Waiopehu Hut, brew in hand, with another good Tararua tramp under our belts. We weren't quite so quick on our feet on the long tramp out.

Tips members: Tony Gates, Heather Purdie, Lance Gray.



Heather & Lance at Arete Biv.

Mt Hikurangi. Easter 2005. By Tony Gates.

Some dedicated PNTMC members recently spread their well worn tramping boots a little north of the regular Tararua- Ruahine- Kaweka- Tongariro places, and had a look at part of the vast Raukumara wilderness area. They surmounted the highest non volcanic peak of the north Island- Te Ara ki Hikurangi.

After rather a lot of rainfall, and an enforced stay in a pleasant backpacker place near Hicks Bay, we finally departed the Crippen limousine some 24 hours later than planned. The river had taken out one bridge abutment, so we had 3.5 km extra of the Tapuaeroa Valley Road to walk- ugh. The weather did clear for a bit, so those of us not familiar with the area could see what we were in for- a very big climb. Also, more and more rugged ranges and peaks came into view as we steadily climbed. Someone compared some of the alpine cliffs to mythical places that Peter Jackson movies have popularized. It took us four hours to reach the hut, which had been pre booked by an Auckland group. Also in residence, having just returned from a successful ascent of Hikurangi, was ex PNTMC member Peter Burgess. He

recalls well his many Ruahine and Tararua tramps with the PNTMC. We camped outside the hut.

We hardly needed to rush departure the next day. It was a good stroll on a well worn track up to the broad tussock\ leatherwood ledges, then a really rocky alpine scree to ascend. The final and much vaunted shingle gully sure looked impressive in the mist. Surrounding bluffs and overhanging crags made the place look like somewhere in the Southern Alps. We clambered up the scree, and poked our noses out onto the main ridge. The sheer north face dropped away from our mountain eire, and mist swirled around. I headed west along a good trail in the tussock in search of the summit till Terry yodeled to me to return to follow the correct trail to the east. Terry is, as you may know, a skilled an experienced mountain navigator. I then had the opportunity to snap a few nice photographs of my friends surmounting the final steps to the summit of Mt Hikurangi.

The mist lifted briefly and periodically for the hour or so that we sat on the summit. It was certainly a wonderful spot, with warm conditions on the sheltered side, and amazing views (when they presented themselves). The vast Raukumara wilderness stretched away to the south, west, and north, and the sunny East Cape bays were visible to the east. A few of the Aucklanders arrived to share our summit. At one stage, Craig yelled- he had been stung by a little wasp type creature. Terry kindly offered to take a photograph of the offending bug for Pete McGregor to identify- in case Craig died!. Being a caring leader, Terry also produced anti histamine ointment (which worked well).

We descended back into the mist, and soon were floundering around in wet tussock and leatherwood. It never actually rained- just very damp mist. I felt secure with the GPS co-ordinates logged in, as the undulating terrain was somewhat confusing. . We found what we though was the start of Macks Track, an old Gisborne Canoe and Tramping Club attempt to make a Raukumara crossing, and to allow all weather access into the Mangatutara. The trail never eventuated, in fact, most of the Raukumara has or is reverting to complete wilderness. Had it ever been made, the Raukumara crossing would have taken a fit trumper at least a week to complete, preferably two. The Raukumara Ranges are very large and very wild. Needless to say, we didn't explore very far into the bush. We were excited to find a partially yellow leaved leatherwood shrub, which may represent a new variety of this handsome plant. The photographs will be passed onto the relevant botanists.

The weather felt like it didn't really want to clear. We ambled back to the hut, brewed up, and cleared out. The lengthy descent was a little tiring, and the extra road walk even more so. The sun did shine for a while, and Hikurangi and Honakawa (Whanakao) peaks cleared briefly. The Tapuaeroa River was still flooded.

We were; Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne, Craig Allerby, and Tony Gates.



Christine, Craig, Terry, Tony, on the summit of Mt Hikurangi.

Since the dawn of man, a myth has been woven about a lost track which at times reveals itself to the seekers of lore and leatherwood by signs neither aplenty nor easily seen. One woman believed in the myth.

The Lost Track - 10th April 2005

by Anja Scholz

We were: Anne and Martin Lawrence, Chris Markham, Lance Gray, Anja Scholz, Ricahrd Lockett and trip leader **Heather Purdie**.

Although Heather could have led us over the well trodden tracks to A-frame hut (aka The Hut Where It Always Rains), across Takapari Road and down the Tamaki river, this was not to be. We started up the river to Stanfield Hut which we reached in time for morning tea. The clouds hanging about on the tops did so all day, which meant we didn't get *fantastic* views from the tops, but could see a fair ways, and also did not get more than a evenly fair sprinkle of rain to barely moisten our raincoats (for those who bothered to put them on) all day.

From Stanfield we got our heartrates up with a wee climb to the saddle on route to Cattle Creek Hut. A few minutes after the turnoff we did indeed find a home made sign pointing into the shrub – "The Lost Track". Here we left the comfort of cut tracks, only to find – a cut track ! While the track

might have been lost to generations of trampers, trip leader Heather had previously found it, and, deciding it shall be lost no more, done one heck of a job taking her rose pruning shears to it (and various other more effective track cutting gear, I hear) to make the ascent to the Takapari Trig a bit less of a bodice ripping and blood spurting experience. Thanks to her we made good progress and after a brief leatherwood bash had lunch on Takapari.

It had turned a bit chilly on the tops, but descending via a narrow trackish looking opening through the leatherwood whilst hanging on to slimy 'hand hold' branches warmed us up again, and we eventually broke out of the scrub onto a "real" track again, aka "Autobahn". Instead of going straight back down from here to Stanfield Hut, we carried on towards Takapari Road and took the Rimu track back down to the river. With the previous day's rain this proved to be the most taxing part of the whole track, and every one managed at least one bum slide. Once back at the Tamaki river, a democratic vote decided it was going to be a "two hill day", and another small uphill brought us to the ridge on the other side of the river, and onto the easy farmtrack which we followed until the drop to the carpark. A great

tramp was followed by coffees and greasies in Dannevirke before we retired to the real world, aka Palmerston North.

And thus the clouds once more descended and covered the signs of the lost track. A new era began, but on quiet nights whispers can still be heard in the trees talking about the time that humans walked here. Let the myth continue...

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

This is the latest list of some of what club members have been up to over the last year; tramping, climbing and related fields (more or less). It follows the same format as previous year's lists: i.e. excludes our frequent Tararua, Ruahine and local activities; but includes both club and non-club trips to further afield areas; it lists only club members and ex-club members (thus a single name doesn't imply a solo trip). And of course its biased, based on what I have ferreted out from people. Hopefully the list will give members ideas about new areas to visit, to try longer trips and to suggest persons to contact for info on some of these places.

The who did what list

*denote ascents

missed out from last years list

Mt Fell area
Waikaremoana
Lago Jacob (*Pico Refugio)

This year

April

Mt Sommers walkway & Winterslow Ra
Travers & Cupola Valleys

June

Nydia Track

July

Cairngorm, Ben Nevis, & Cuillin areas
(*Ben MacDui, *Ben Nevis, *Bla Blein,)
Lechtaler & Zillertaler Alps (*Gfallen
Spitze, *Grune Wand)
Queen Charlotte walkway
Lake District, Cotswolds, Cornwall
horse trekking

August

rock climbing

September

October

Kaweka-Kaimanawa crossing
Hump Track
Kepler Track (*Luxmore)
circumnavigation of Ama Dablam, Hunku-
Khumbu area (*Imjatse)

November

Great Barrier forest
Grand Plateau
Mueller Hut, Ball Ridge (*Wakefield)

Mt Richmond FP
Urewera NP
Argentina

Mt Sommers
Nelson Lakes NP

Marlborough Sounds

Scotland

Austria

Marlborough Sounds
England
Mongolia

France

Fiji

Kaweka Kaimanawa
Fiordland
Fiordland NP
Himalayas, Nepal

Great Barrier Is
Aoraki/Mt Cook NP
Aoraki/Mt Cook NP

Andrew Lynch
Monica Cantwell
Tony Gates

Craig Allerby, Terry Crippen, Lance Gray
Liz Morrison

Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, Warren Wheeler, Elaine Herve,
Mick & Marian Leyland, Yuko Watanabe, Wara Teeranitamkul,
Richard Lockett, Nigel Gregory

Terry Crippen, Jonathan Astin

Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne

Lance Gray, Anja Scholz
Monica Cantwell
Pete McGregor

Pete McGregor

Monica Cantwell

Craig Allerby
Peter Wiles, Chris Saunders
Chris Saunders, Peter Wiles
Andrew Lynch

Lance Gray, Anja Scholz
Bruce van Brunt, Malcolm Leary, Alasdair Noble
Bruce van Brunt, Anastasia van Brunt, Chris Saunders

(*Mana Kea)	Hawaii	Marcus Kirchberg
December		
Milford Track	Fiordland NP	Anja Scholz
Kepler Track	Fiordland NP	Anja Scholz
Hollyford track	Mt Aspiring NP	Anja Scholz
Harris Mountains (*Advance, *Vanguard)	Otago	Barry Scott
Annette Plateau (*Annette)	Aoraki/Mt Cook NP	Terry Crippen, Nigel Green
January 05		
Cameron Valley	Arrowsmith Range	Terry Crippen, Nigel Green
Manganotoka to Otaki	Tararua FP	Warren Wheeler, Yuko Watanabe, Peter Wiles, Lance Gray, Anja Scholz
White & Greenlaw Valleys (*Wakeman, *Murchison)	Arthurs Pass NP	Terry Crippen, Lance Gray, Pete McGregor
Otira Valley (*Rolleston)	Arthurs Pass NP	Lance Gray, Craig Allerby, Terry Crippen
Cass Valley, Lagoon Saddle	Craigieburn FP	Lance Gray, Graig Allerby, Sarah Pettus
rafting	Motu River	Tony Gates
rafting	Mohaka River	Tony Gates
Wilkin Valley (*Leda)	Mt Aspiring NP	Barry Scott, Terry Crippen
Kea Basin, Rees Valley	Mt Aspiring NP	Bruce van Brunt, Anastasia van Brunt
Dusky Sound	Fiordland NP	Bruce van Brunt, Anastasia van Brunt
Waikaremoana	Urewera NP	Monica Cantwell
Whirinaki forest	Urewera NP	Monica Cantwell
February		
Ball Pass (*Turner)	Aoraki/Mt Cook NP	Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne
Annette Plateau (*Annette)	Aoraki/Mt Cook NP	Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne
Gertrude Valley (*Macpherson, *Talbot, *Barrier)	Fiordland NP	Andrew Lynch
Ice climbing, Franz & Fox Glaciers	Westland NP	Heather Purdie
Ball Pass	Aoraki/Mt Cook NP	Heather Purdie
Koranga & Kahunui Valleys	Huiarua Range	Terry Crippen, Trevor Lupton
Whirinaki forest	Urewera NP	Peter Wiles
March		
Mungo Valley	Westland	Pete McGregor
Tapuaeroa Valley (*Hikurangi)	Raukumara Range	Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne, Tony Gates, Craig Allerby

The rhyme of the hardy he men. By "J".
Tararua Tramper, February 1936.

Tough, tough, tough,
Indomitably tough,
They waiver not nor wilt,
They never cry "Enough".

They take what's coming to them,
They brag; not no, nor bluff,
No praise they ask or give,
But this, he did his stuff.

A chosen tribe they are,
And tested every one,
The chattering, orange sucking,
Munching mobs they shun.

Despising huts and tents,
Jerseys, scarfs, and vests,
Men of the shorter shorts,
And blizzard beaten chests.

Men of the trackless bush,
Men of the hard won peak,
Men of the long day's trail,
Who very seldom speak.

So great the deeds, as great,
The feeds of He- men true,
Billies of stodgy rice,
Kerosene drums of stew.

No festive feeding theirs,
But purposeful and dumb,
Till tight tight tight,
Is the tum tum tum.

Tough tough tough,
Grumpy, grim, and gruff,
Hardy, hefty he- men,
Diamonds rare though rough.

Of deeds and feeds of he- men,
We ne'er can hear enough,
We, who can never hope,
To be tough tough tough.

(With Thanks to Tony Gates)

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