



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

## Newsletter - August 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.*

**11 Aug Club Night – “Te Araroa Walkway” by Ian Argyle**

If you have been following the notices by club member Christine Cheyne you will realise that there is much happening with the Te Araroa Walkway. This is your chance to find out exactly what is going on.

**18 Aug Committee Meeting**

**25 Aug Club Night – “Blast from the Past” by Peter Darragh**

For those of you lucky enough to have had Peter Darragh's company you will realise that this promises to be a stand-up comedy routine of the highest order. Your opportunity to view climbing in the fashion tragedy that was the 1980's. Not to be missed.

Articles to Lance [gray.family@actrix.co.nz](mailto:gray.family@actrix.co.nz) or post to 37 Parata Street, Palmerston North (by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month)

### TRIPS

**Aug 6-7 Snowcraft 1 M/I**  
Terry Crippen 356-3588

**Aug 7 Herepai Hut M**  
Neil Campbell 359-5048

This walk takes you in behind Eketahuna to the Northern Taranuvas. In good conditions you can get onto the tops with good views of the

surrounding farmland as well as a look at Ruapae Stream and the Dundas Range. Contact Neil for further details.

**Aug 13-14 Field Hut E**  
TBA- Contact Janet 329-4722

An easy overnight trip to the historic Field Hut on the Southern Crossing. This is no ordinary hut with photographs of the history of the area. Depending on conditions this is a good opportunity for to have a wander up onto the tops into the snow.

**Aug 14 Sunrise and Beyond M**  
Nigel Gregory 354-8124

A trip to Sunrise Hut provides an opportunity, depending on conditions, for some fun alternative ways home. There is a trip over Te Atuaoparapara to Waipawa Saddle and home. There is the descent from Armstrong Saddle down the scree to the Waipawa River and home. Or more gently you can explore the two main ridges and return home via the Sunrise Hut track.

**Aug 20-21 Snowcraft 2 M/I**  
Terry Crippen 356-3588

**Aug 21 Wharite/Coppermine M**  
Heather Purdie 354-0448

A nice ramble around Coppermine Creek and Wharite. Knowing Heather she will have some new variation worked out that will make this a fun day out. Not too far from the Ballance café either! Contact Heather for further details about this trip in the Southern Ruahines.

**Aug 27-28 Snowcraft 3 M/I**  
Terry Crippen 356-3588

**Aug 28 Stanfield Hut M**  
TBA – Contact Janet 329-4722

With Ian's broken ankle we will be needing another trip leader for this pleasant ramble behind Dannevirke.

**Oct 16**                      **Kapiti Island**                      **E**  
    **Janet Wilson**    **329-4722**

This easy, scenic and interesting trip is now confirmed to be on Sunday, October 16., subject to weather. There has already been a big response to the email about this trip but there are still places available - be in quickly to let Janet know if you'd like to go as **places are limited and it's first in from now on**. The cost is \$39 for the DOC permit and the boat trip (\$24.50 for children). The \$9 permit fee is non-refundable and must be paid by Thursday Oct 13. If the trip doesn't go on the day, it will be rescheduled onto the next trip card.

**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)

## Notices

**K2 & Mt Cook re-scheduled, Film Festival, Six Pack of Parks Talk, Doc Minutes**

**31 July                      K2 & Mt Cook**

To be rescheduled as Warren is away on holiday looking for more tasty morsels to try on unsuspecting trampers

**Aotearoa Environmental Film Festival**  
 Saturday 30 July at the Globe Theatre, Palmerston North This is the inaugural edition of the Festival ~ 3 hours of screening, seven recent (2004&2005) films including four from New Zealand General Admission tickets from Ticketek, (06) 358 1186 ~ \$8 students and \$12 for waged. The Globe Theatre is a small

venue, so you'll need to be in early to get tickets.



### Six Pack of Parks – FMC Proposal

**7:30 pm Tue 23 Aug Te Manawa, Main Street West Palmerston North**

Forest and Bird's Canterbury/West Coast field officer, Eugenie Sage will give an illustrated talk on Federated Mountain Clubs' and Forest and Bird's "Six Pack of Parks" proposal for six new high country parks, and current high country issues on the South Island. The Six Pack proposal was featured with beautiful photographs in the most recent FMC Bulletin, and seeks to achieve parks designations for six distinct areas east of the South Island main divide.

The South Island high country east of the Main Divide has spectacular landscapes, distinctive plants and wildlife and abundant opportunities for recreation. Yet few areas are protected as parks and reserves. Current issues include the need for changes in the tenure review process to better protect lands with high conservation and recreation values; and increasing demand for water for irrigation which threatens braided rivers and some of these special landscapes and wildlife.

All PNTMC members and friends are invited to hear Ms Sage speak. Eugenie has a long history in conservation interests in our South Island high country, and promises to give an excellent presentation of the case for greater protection for the areas in the Six Pack proposal.

### DOC Meeting 20 July - Minutes

Rangiwahia Hut was discussed. DOC is considering shifting the hut to Deadmans

Track, which would give a similar view, with a similar walking distance.

Deadmans Track offers a more stable year round route. The slip face on Rangiwahia Track has been a problem for many years, and geological reports indicate that the entire slip face is unstable.

Putting a tunnel through the slipface and against the solid rock was brought up. Another suggestion was shifting Rangī Hut to Manaia Track on tussock. There is legal accessway here.

DOC says it is in process of establishing all legal access into park. Beginning to cut mid-Pohangina track next week.



The Leary's Hunterville Lakes Walk – Haven't seen the report yet but great photo.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Roaring Stag, Haurangi Range, Pohangina No 1(a), Pohangina No1(b), Mid-Winter Celebrations, Burn Hut

#### 22 May - Roaring Stag by Malcolm Parker

It had been quite a few months since I had taken the boots for a decent walk. So today was the day. My fitness levels were a concern. But there really is only one way to get fit for tramping isn't there. And it was going to hurt!

The usual early start saw us at the Putara road-end at a reasonable time. The first stretch in to the 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge passed quickly and

the weather seemed to be favourable. We just hoped that Warren wasn't laying down a challenge to the weather gods. I decided that I was going to just take my time climbing up to the turn off and plodded on at my own pace while everyone else wandered on up and waited for me. I finally rejoined them and we headed off down to the hut at a reasonably good pace.

As we came closer to the hut it did seem a bit strange to hear a chainsaw breaking the

silence. I assumed it was the guys working on the new hut. But it was even stranger to wander on up to some bright orange “danger” tape stretching around the hut sites. And of course we did heed the warning – for a nanosecond – ducked under it and wandered on around to have a look at the new hut. Very impressive it is too. Despite it being a month away from the official opening day we were surprised to see it looking very nearly finished. The bush in front of it has been cleared so there is now a view down to the river. But it does give a very pleasant outlook from the new hut. We decided to wander on over the bridge and find a spot opposite for lunch. That was we could eat and watch the old hut being demolished. I do enjoy watching others work.

A very leisurely lunch and it was time to head back. We wandered on up to the turnoff, stopping for a chat occasionally but we still made reasonable time. An uneventful trip out with the exception of Warren’s weather woes – it would have remained fine if he hadn’t taunted Hughey on the way in.

I’m sure the climb down to the 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge is just as hard as the climb up. It’s just the knees that hurt on the way down whereas it’s the lungs that hurt on the way up. But the days exertions were taking their toll on the body and I was getting slower and slower. After I finally arrived at the car we decided to end the trip with a coffee at Eketahuna. What a great idea. A shot of caffeine might be just what I need to keep me awake for the drive home. And it was very pleasant sitting inside having a coffee, discussing the merits of possum duvet liners while it rained quite steadily.

A very pleasant trip. I’m sure the fitness level has improved as a result. Now to look forward to the next one with a little less trepidation. We were Malcolm Parker, Warren Wheeler, Neil Campbell, Duncan Hedderley and Chris Markham.

### **28-29 May Haurangi Range by Warren Wheeler**

Janet Wilson and Graham Peters (leader) made for just three of us who patronised the Fish and Chips Shop in Martinborough on

Friday night...and wished we had joined the crowds at the Thai Takeaways just 100m down the road, but. Half an hour or so later we were setting up our tent at the Putangirua Pinnacles DoC camp ground, well sign-posted on the coast road that leads to Cape Palliser at the southernmost end of the North Island. Rain we had none, but the wind picked up from time to time overnight. Thankful we were for the sheltered campsite.

Saturday morning revealed a scene of devastation from the flood at the end of March, with the wide gravelly streambed nicely cleaned out and littered with tree-fall. Tramping upstream in the bed was pretty straightforward so getting to the Pinnacles would not be more than a half hour or so, but we veered off on the marked uphill track. This gave us a good lofty lookout across this amazing geological oddity, which is replicated in less dramatic fashion elsewhere in the area.

We joined the 4WD ridge track and could see that the westerly weather was leaving us with just the wind from what we could see would be rather horrible conditions on the Rimutaka and Tararua Ranges – Haurangi was well-named if “windy sky” is any translation. The coast is never far away with even our high point being named Surf (741m). The 4WD track ended and continued as a reasonably well-marked DoC track along the ridge, dropping down to Catchpool hut (1968) and the Makotukutuku Stream before going up and down again to Pararaki Hut (1966) – a good 6-7 hours through some well-forested rugged country.

Despite its rough exterior the hut was in good tidy condition after a recent stay by hunters, which gave us an opportunity to practise Track and Clue Awareness skills. Sunday started with a steep climb onto the ridge, continuing our generally south-easterly traverse of the range. The track was a bit overgrown in places with the odd windfall so the orange markers proved their worth. Few people go this way, with hunters usually coming in directly via the streams running out to the coast.

The “Easter Orchid Ridge” made a nice lunch spot before dropping into the Kawakawa

Stream. The many low-growing orchids on this steep little section of ridge were in seed, but would be worth a visit when they are flowering in March-April.

Kawakawa Hut is accessible by 4WD via the streambed and farm track, and has just been "improved" much to the disgust of some hunters', going by their comments in the log-book.

Flood damage became more apparent after the hut as we went up the unnamed right branch of the Kawakawa Stream. Big slips had swept down valley leaving perched beaches of gravel that left orange track markers at knee height. Despite the occasional tree blockage and debris our progress was largely unimpeded, as much of the instream vegetation had been cleaned out by the storm. The marked exit point from the true right bank of stream coincides with rather obvious blockage by large rocks in the stream.

The vegetation was somewhat different through this stretch, with more matai trees and nikau. After dropping into the Mangatoetoe Stream catchment it soon became obvious that the flood had also devastated this area. So much gravel had been deposited in the wide streambed that the flow was almost dried up in places. This made for generally easy walking down the flats to the coast road, which we reached at 3.00pm after passing Mangatoetoe Hut a few kilometres inland.

The hut is now a bit difficult to access because of the flood damage to the 4WD track. There are several crossings involved which would make foot access interesting in wet weather – fortunately the few drops we had were hardly enough to wet the bush. Even so the Mangatoetoe Stream was running milky due to flood silt in the bed and seepage from bare slips (I guess).

After reaching the coast road we had a short wait before Graham hitched a lift back to the car, with Janet and I also hitching a short lift to Ngawi soon after we started walking. Plenty of traffic along this picturesque coastline so no real worries with transport.

Good trip – new country for me, and well worth a visit – thanks Graham for not cancelling.

## **12 June Pohangina No 1(a) - Matanganui Stream by Richard Lockett**

The marked track at the end of No1 line off Pohangina east road, 2kms long and climbing 500 metres towards the Ruahine ranges tops. There and back a bit short for a medium trip so loop back the stream was the plan.

There's some massive trees up there first up a Rimu then a small carved ponga, a goblins face then a large northern Rata with two trunks and a gap between where its host tree ounce was which most of us amused ourselves by squeezing through.

Lance was showing off his new expensive looking La Sportiva climbing boots which he was breaking in on this trip, had seen them being modelled by a young female DOC worker on the pinus contorta weekend in December. "Just what I need " he said. (the boots or the girl? Ed.)

Onwards and upwards with my calf muscles telling me that upwards it definitely was. An interesting winter view of Ruapehu was had from a gap in the bush; nice clear snow covered flanks with the top obscured by a layer of cloud.

With Duncan and Barbara setting the pace the rest of us were slowed somewhat by Yuko inquiring of our allegiances re a dancing show on Sunday nights TV. Yuko was rooting for a couple Shane and Nerida and was somewhat vex with our response. Sunday night is when Graham polishes his motorbike. Lance stopped watching the show after his favourite couple was voted off in round one "gutted".

Warren was reluctant to reveal where his loyalties lay but did admit to nearly participating in a session of line-dancing in his youth. I admitted to having watched a couple of episodes and liked the look of Norm Hewitt's partner, had a degree of feistiness to her which I found appealing.

Conversation ebbed away as it does when the grade steepens all energy channelled into hauling ones backside up hill. Morning tea was reached as the marked track petered out on a flattish ridge somewhere near a point called 1011 with the low cloud making an accurate position difficult.

Here we split up with Lance, Barbara and Duncan retracing their steps back down the track for lunch at the Waterford pub leaving the rest of us to head south through the Horopito scrub and over the side down and down petty steep swinging from the trees as we went Graham leading. Picked up a watercourse but became too steep, back into the trees finishing up in the watercourse further down culminating in a muddy descent down a 2 metre waterfall into the Matanganui.

Poor Yuko had to climb back onto the slope at least six times while we tried to get her camera to work. Good progress was made as we headed down stream which was found to be clear of obstacles easy travelling with lunch taken on the "mullock" heap of a large slip in the glow of to sun which was welcome but making a brief appearance for the day.

Comment was made on the large bluffs further down stream looking like the pillars of Moggadon or something from the Lord of the Rings movies perhaps guarding our escape. Off we set with the hillsides closing in on us until we reached a gorge with no possible way forward in the stream and the banks near vertical and as they say when the going gets tough the tough get going Warren lead the way up the left hand bank hauling ourselves up with what ever we could grab hold of, Billy goat stuff. We climbed about 50 metres up above the stream from where I could see the car parked at the top off No 1 line. A side across to a bit of a saddle were we found two ropes tied to some small trees to assist in the ascent descent of the other side.

Back into the Matanganui and with about 500 metres of travel we were back at the car cold wet and muddy but warm in spirit. Yuko's last frolic in the hills with us lot the only dampener for the day. Off to the Waterford for Guinness and coffee. Crew -Yuko Watanabe Barbara Mare Duncan Hedderley, Lance Gray

Graham Peters Warren Wheeler Richard Lockett Leader and Scribe.

### **June 12 Pohangina No.1(b) By Graham Peters**

' A cold, wet, shitty wander up into the Ruahines. Walk up into the cloud and turn around and come back!' How could one resist. Living the closest to the road-end, of course I (Graham Peters) was the last to arrive only a little late to find Lance Gray, Barbara Mere, Yuko Watanabe, Duncan Hedderly, Warren Wheeler, and leader Richard Lockett all bright eyed, bushy tailed, champing at the bit and raring to go.

With our best interests at heart, Richard had the trip starting at a leisurely pace, stopping to admire the surprisingly large (and signposted) rimu and then the bifurcated rata that most of us couldn't resist squeezing through. All this was however to lull us into a false sense of leisureliness before a quite steep grunt from 500m to 700m then less steep to 800m before the track basically levelled out. At this stage, as promised, we were in the clouds with the track bounded by low, scrubby peppertree. Before long we came on a large orange DOC triangle and very soon the track fizzled out on an exposed knob. We went back to a sheltered widening in the track for morning tea and a decision on a plan of attack.

The sensible thing to do would be to wander back the way we came and retire to the Waterford and bask in the recognition of a jolly fine days tramp. However Yuko was strident, and adamant, that she wanted to go bush bashing (I blame Peter Wiles with his 3 Johns trip). We tried to talk sense into her, stressing how foolhardy it was striking off into 'terra incognito.' However she was not to be dissuaded and while the sensible Barbara, Lance and Duncan headed back down the track, Yuko, Richard, Warren and myself headed off down to the Matanganui Stream.

Initially there were good clear routes through the scrub but inevitably we ended scrabbling through it as we picked up a bit of a ridge. We hit on a slip route that seemed to offer a clearish way into a tributary and ended up variously in this or sidling above it till we

ended up at a junction with the main stream. From here the going was really good and we found a nice sunny beach for our lunch break. From here as we looked downstream there were some impressive looking rock towers, one with a nadgery looking little notch in it, bounding the stream. Warren, the little trickster, suggested that as the stream travel was so easy we could have a diversion through the notch. Surprisingly you may think, we were not interested.

Replete and cheerful after lunch we carried on downstream until we reached the waterfall - the dreaded impassable waterfall. Nothing for it but to take to the bush for the side. A quick reconnoitre showed that the low side wasn't an option so up beside the bluffs we went till lo and behold where did we end up but in Warren's little notch. From here there was a dodgy 3m climb down to good ground. Whilst sitting there assessing the climb I noticed a rope - jolly good, and soon we were back down in the main stream. The rest of the stream was again easy going with someone fortunately noticing the not particularly obvious track up to the carpark.

Back to the Waterford to find the others had got sick of waiting for us and left. Thanks to Richard for a suitably adventuresome very excellent trip, especially as it was Yuko's last trip before she went back to Japan.

### **18-19 June Mid-Winter Celebrations - Kawhatau Base by Warren Wheeler**

"This is high enough for a picnic".

"Did anyone see where the cork went?"

"More tea?"

"I'm getting tiddly already.."

"That brollie was a good idea Craig".

"How do they get so many of those in such a small jar?"

"What are they?"

"Whew....just as well I left the venison stew at home in the fridge".

"You should try rubbing Stretch Cream on your stomach".

"Hello Atnas". "Oh Oh Oh Merry Samx-ness".

"Its too hot in here, I'm going to sleep in the Office".

"No-one minds if I turn on the generator do they.

I wouldn't mind some toast for breakfast".

"I don't suppose we need to open a tin of beetroot to put on the Bad Taste green porridge with baked beans and sausages".

"No the yoghurt and strawberry jam should be fine."

"Liz would never have gone back across if I hadn't told her we would put it in the newsletter if she didn't".

"I'm not going in again, I had my Mid-winter Dip yesterday".

"The miro leaves are two dimensional, whereas the matai is more three dimensional".

"I stepped in over my boots back there".

"Now, can you tell where a lady went for a pee here?"

"Will you shut the gates if I open them?"

"I haven't laughed so much for a long time".

And so would you if you had been there :-)

We were the Magnificent Seven and the Famous Five for High Tea on Colenso Spur.

Liz Morrison, Maho Strachan and Doug Strachan, Janet Wilsoin, Graham Peters, Craig Allerby, Warren Wheeler (leader)

### Book Review By Tony Gates

A Trumper's Journey. By Mark Pickering (2004). Craig Potton Publishing. 195 pages, soft cover. About \$29.95. 8 chapters, each with 4 or 5 sub chapters. Numerous good colour photos.

As a some time deer hunter and mountaineer myself (as well as a dedicated trumper), I often peruse book shops, libraries, and personal libraries on the subjects of my interest. There are many books and magazines on the topics, you know, by Sir Ed, Barry Crump, and the like, and many on other outdoor activities- but comparatively few books exist about tramping. I'm not talking about tramping and walking guide books- there are a plethora of those on the shelves- I'm talking about general interest stories about our core business, the adventure called tramping. The philosophy, the love, the enjoyment, even the pains of tramping.

Mark Pickering has excelled. He is an experienced New Zealand trumper brought up in Wellington, and now based in Christchurch. His tramping CV features Tararua, Ruahine, and Southern Alps trips (among many other areas), covering a period from the 1970's till today. His CV also features being the author of several other good tramping books, as well as joining many other well known trampers and authors in the hills (indeed, his first book was entitled simply "The Hills") Combine that sort of experience and knowledge, and you have a sure winner.

The author's journey begins with some biographical details, then snippets of various trips throughout the past thirty or so years. It's a mixed bag of short stories, but they all tie in together with the common theme of enjoying the trips. They all have tramping things like food, floods, forests and friends. Trips are many and varied, and are by no means presented in their full form, more a sort of memoir form. And the author is obviously a learned man, with philosophy and detail that should educate the reader. Photographs are lovely (at least one per chapter), and there are a couple of small topo maps to enhance their respective stories. Two guest writers offer chapters to the author as interesting and very readable additions.

There are several log book quotes, and some lovely philosophy about bush and mountain huts (and their residents).

*Fireplace Fred is his name  
This resident mouse is quite tame  
If you leave out a biscuit  
He'll come out and risk it  
While leaving your pack as it came.*

Anon, Trust- Poulter Hut, Arthurs Pass, February 1987.

The name of the books' publisher is synonymous with quality. Craig Potton Publishing has already done many books (and other things) that outdoor enthusiasts the world over will enjoy. This is the latest, and hopefully not the last. This is a tramping book that should be on every trampers Christmas pressie list- if it is not already on your own book shelf.

### How heavy is that load?

By Peter Wiles

We have all seen sights of Nepalese porters carrying voluminous loads. How heavy are those loads typically? This and the energy associated with the carrying of the load has been the subject of recent published research; **Science 308**, 1755, 17/06/2005.

The route from Kathmandu to Namche (3500m) covers close to 100 km and the aggregate height gain required is close to 8000m with height losses of 6300m. A weekly bazaar is held at Namche where in a survey some 640 porters (and 32 yaks) were counted heading. Of 96 men weighed, their loads averaged 93% of their body weight (largest load was 183% of body weight!!)



and ages ranged from 11 to 68 yr. Now gentle folk, the fairer sex has it comparatively easy. Of 17 women sampled (out of 97) their loads averaged 66% of their body weight.

(The loads carried by the yaks were not recorded/reported. The SPCA might have had a passing interest.)

The energy consumed carrying loads by the Nepali technique of suspending the load from a head band (namlo) has been measured and compared with consumption rates for corresponding loads carried in backpacks by Europeans. The Nepali walking technique is unique and far more efficient than other known portering methods (including the technique used by women of certain African tribes who carry loaded pots on their heads). The exact mechanism that gives the advantage remains unknown at present.

Perhaps a redesign of packs might be considered and/or some group instruction of the required technique might be useful.

So when you are cursing that burden on your back, be thankful and remember it is probably miniscule compared with Nepali loads.

### **“Top honour for trampers” by Doug Strachan**

Two PNTMC members, Terry Crippen and Peter Wiles, have recently been awarded Life Membership, the club’s top honour.



Terry Crippen strikes a pose

Life Membership has only been bestowed upon four others since the club formed in 1966. The award recognises the continuing contributions Terry and Peter have made to

the club; including serving on the club executive and general committees over many years, in leading trips and running instruction programmes.

Terry has served as club secretary, vice president, and president. He has led many trips, including numerous 6-10 day trans-alpine trips in the South Island, to such places as Nelson Lakes, Arthurs Pass, Mt Cook and Westland National Parks, and the Mt Hooker-Landsborough Wilderness Area. He is active in running instructional courses in snowcraft, navigation and rock climbing.

Other club members recall with good humour that Terry is an early riser on tramping trips, and even a “rest day” can mean “just” six hours of tramping.

With bemusement, Terry remembers the time, when organizing a climbing trip into the Arrowsmith Mountains, he said, “Nigel, you bring the rope.” Unfortunately there were two Nigels in the party, so an extra 4kg rope was unnecessarily taken on the trip – and carried by the other Nigel who already had his share of the party equipment. No wonder this Nigel complained about his heavy pack as they set off up the Lawrence Valley on the first day! The extra rope wasn’t discovered till the first night as party members proceeded to set up camp.

At the Club’s recent AGM, on accepting Life Membership, Terry told club members of his first tramp with the PNTMC, which was in the Ruahine Ranges. He had just arrived from Auckland, where he had been an active trumper with an Auckland club and thought he was fit. After this first tramp he went home thinking the PNTMC members were a pack of “fit buggers.” Nowadays he considers himself more of an experienced trumper rather than a fit bugger. A living club icon, he stunned the audience when he said that at one point he gave up tramping and climbing and sold all his gear. Fortunately the back injury that precipitated that move healed, and Terry was able to resume his passion.

Both Terry and Peter spoke of Trevor Bissell, another club member who greatly influenced them. Terry narrated that Trevor Bissell used to live in a house on Carroll Street, a well

known trampers' and climbers' flat - famous for having footprints on the walls and ceiling, the result of inside climbing by the flat's residents, no doubt before indoor climbing centres had arrived in Palmerston North.

Sadly, Dr Bissell was hit and killed by falling ice and rocks on Mt Cook in 1989. The PNTMC lost a valuable member, but people like Terry and Peter continue the good work.

Terry has a MSc in geology, and does land resource surveying. He was born in Auckland in 1948 and became interested in tramping when, in his teens, he became a cadet in the Air Training Corps. Bushcraft and outdoor survival were part of the training regimen. He later joined the Auckland University Tramping Club, before moving to Palmerston North in 1979, joining PNTMC that year. Besides his involvement with PNTMC, he is a member of the New Zealand Alpine Club, and active in search and rescue. He is currently Secretary and Treasurer for the Palmerston North Land Search and Rescue Advisory Committee.

This month marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Peter becoming a club member. He joined the club shortly after Terry.

Peter has served on the PNTMC committee as Newsletter Distributor and Editor, and was club treasurer for 21 years, only stepping down from the role this year. He continues to be the club archivist and webmaster, and has painstakingly converted decades of perished printed matter into electronic format.

Aside from leading tramps in the Ruahine and Tararua ranges, he has led trips that ventured further afield to areas such as Aspiring National Park and Arrowsmith Range to the south, and the Kaimanawa, Kaweka, and Comet ranges to the north. He makes frequent pilgrimages to Tongariro National Park, and has spent many years as a club snowcraft and icecraft instructor.

On accepting his award, Peter told club members that in many ways he is surprised to still be here. One time he had the good fortune to survey a colossal volume of ice that had collapsed from the Cameron Glacier and avalanched across the very route he and his companion had taken the day before.

Peter related another incident that occurred while camping at 1600m with Terry in the Arthur's Pass region. Rising one morning, he noticed his vision had gone all peculiar. He found himself in the unenviable position of contemplating how to descend a mountain after suffering a stroke. At this point Terry leaned towards him and said quietly, "Peter, I think we had better swap glasses."

Born in Wanganui in 1951, Peter completed a PhD in chemical engineering at Canterbury University, and currently works at Fonterra, dealing with intellectual property issues.

Peter discovered tramping in 1971, during his first year at Canterbury University. While swotting for exams, someone planted the idea in his mind of a summer trip to Stewart Island. At that time, "inch to the mile" topographical maps were unavailable for the island, making the trip an adventure into the unknown. After two weeks of superb weather, and despite dropping his camera in a stream near the start of the trip, he was hooked on tramping.

During the 1970s, he progressed to mountaineering, attempting many peaks in the Arthur's Pass and Erewhon regions; and the Arrowsmith mountains in central Canterbury. During these years he learned, sometimes the hard and dangerous way, how to contend with a variety of snow conditions, as well as long tedious valleys and flooded rivers.

In 1980, he moved to Palmerston North, and became acquainted with the PNTMC. He and Trevor Bissell, a work colleague whom he had also known at Canterbury University, went on countless tramping trips throughout the 80s. Dr Bissell's death on Mt Cook before the decade was out came as a great loss.

When Peter first joined the PNTMC, he had to get used to tramping in the Ruahine and Tararua ranges, learning to cope with bush travel, navigation, and difficult weather conditions. The North Island seemed topsy-turvy, with trampers traversing along ridges rather than traipsing along broad valley floors.

Peter still makes forays to the South Island. Persistence has paid off, with successful ascents of Mt Hooker (south Westland), Mt Aspiring, Mt Brewster (Haast Pass) and Red Mountain (south of Jackson Bay). It was his third attempt on each of these summits.

These days he is more inclined to go tramping than engage in risky high adventure. Last year he tramped from Lewis Pass to Arthur's Pass, followed by the Dart-Rees, Hump Ridge, and Kepler tracks, the latter in winter.

In 2002, Peter gave an enthralling slide show and talk about his journey by ship through pack ice to Antarctica.

On June 30, 2005, he co-delivered a presentation at the PNTMC club-night about tramping the Rees-Dart in Aspiring National Park.

It is in recognition of this dedication to the PNTMC that Peter Wiles and Terry Crippen have been made Life Members



Peter Wiles on Egmont/Taranaki

## **Burn Hut, 26 June by Barbara Mare**

Despite the weather forecast two intrepid explorers set out for Burn Hut on a cold Sunday morning: Warren and Barbara. Driving out from Shannon on the winding gravel road towards the Power Station it started snowing! It was powdery snow that looked very pretty, just like one of those Christmas snow-globes, especially with all the pine trees around.

We stopped at the dam hoping the car wouldn't get snowed in by the time we got back. Actually it kept on snowing all morning in a light sort of way. There's a new arched bridge over the widest stream that's about half an hour in from the start of the track. Very nice indeed. The first part of the walk is a gentle up and down through beautiful bush. Then a bit of a climb – at least the uphill kept us warm.

About 400 metres we hit the start of serious snow about an hour away from the hut. The snow was between one and two inches thick, nice and crunchy for the most part, with a fair few muddy and slippery bits. The track through the leatherwood is well marked and easy to follow. Fortunately there was no wind and the sun came out on the tops. We made it to Burn hut just on lunchtime, and gobbled our sandwiches while we chatted to two young trampers who were on a mission to walk to every hut in the area.

Apparently there are 52 huts altogether and this was the 21<sup>st</sup> hut they'd made it to! Good on them. It's a great little hut, pretty cosy and clean. Putting on absolutely all our spare clothing we started back down the track again. It clouded up and got quite cold until we got off the snow. Then it was a pleasant walk mostly downhill. The car wasn't snowed in after all! So it was off to the cheery Espresso Café in Shannon for a warm-up mochaccino before heading back to Palmy. Thanks Warren for not cancelling the trip!

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