



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - March 2006

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 visitors book.

4-5 Mar Land SAREX

**9 Mar Club Night – Peter Darragh
“Blast from the past II”**

Back by popular demand Peter Darragh will present another rich kaleidoscope of colour and experience. Where will he take us to this time? Come along and find out. The funniest alpine climbing instructor I have ever met. Remember to ask him to demonstrate a one arm bowline and of course the story behind such a useful skill.

23 Mar Committee Meeting - Mick's

**30 Mar AGM
Warren Wheeler**

The annual General Meeting will start at 7.45pm and will feature a post election-year address by the President and a fiscal and finance report by the Treasurer. Nominations for the Executive will be accepted no later than immediately prior to election on the night.

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

TRIPS

**Mar 5 Titahi Bay Rock Climbing T
Peter Darragh 353-0922**

For those of you who have had a go at the indoor version this is your opportunity to try the real thing. Come along to the coastal cliffs behind

Porirua and have a go on some real rock (NZ Greywacke). Plenty of scope for beginners or experts (who have been known to climb in gumboots). The climbs are bolted for top-roping which makes for more relaxing efforts. Gear and instruction provided.

**Mar 11-12 Ngamoko Range M
Iron Gates Hut 356-3588
Terry Crippen**

7am start Sat. Western Ruahines, a longish day on Sat, a shortish day on Sun. Up onto Tunupo then north along the Ngamoko Range before dropping down to the hut for the night. Sunday sees us heading out via the side track or sections of the Oroua river if the weather is hot.

**Mar12 Tunupo Circuit MF
Craig Allerby 323-7913**

Starting from Table Flat Road, Apiti, a well graded track leads up through the bush to open tussock and on to prominent Tunupo Peak (1568m) in the Ngamoko range before returning possibly via the Knights Track. Contact Craig for departure details of this excellent day trip.

**Mar 18-19 Howletts Hut M
Peter Darragh 353-0922**

Join Peter for a visit to this classic eastern Ruahine Hut owned by the Heretaunga Tramping Club. Always plenty of options so contact Peter with your favourite approach.

**Mar 19 Longview Hut Loop M
John Feeney 354-2940**

An excellent day out in the eastern Ruahines with most of the climbing already completed for you by the vehicle you will arrive in! Longview as its name suggests has commanding views of the Southern Hawkes Bay and provides access into the headwaters of the Pohangina River. Contact John for further details.

Mar 25-26 YTTY Hut M
Anja Scholz 356-6454

Curses, my Maori placenames book doesn't have an entry – Waitewaewae has either to do with water and feet, or divided waters – whichever, we will use our feet and walk to the divided waters through some lovely bush. I'll feed the sun-meter so we can use the dry weather track (in the river), which will double as a swim option. Meet at 8 am at Countdown.

Mar 26 Putangirua Pinnacles E
Tony Gates 357-7439

Join Tony for what promises to be a fantastic day out. The drive alone through the picturesque southern Wairarapa is worth the admission alone. Spoilt for good coffee you will arrive at Putangirua properly satiated and ready to recreate your own favourite scene from Lord of the Rings. The walking is very easy. You won't regret this day out.

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

Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 30 March

Immediately following the Annual General Meeting the consumption of 40th birthday cake will continue with a final opportunity to officially reminisce.

Advance notice.
(Extended) ANZAC weekend
April 21/22 to 25/26

Terry Crippen 3563-588.

Northern Ureweras, Rua's Track or into the Ruakitiri Valley..

With ANZAC day on the Tuesday, we will take Friday afternoon, Monday and Wednesday off work. Two possibilities, both 5-6 days, medium

(i) A west-east crossing of the Ureweras on Rua's Track, an old stock route from Mangapohatu, and used by the Maori prophet Rua Kenana.

Will involve a helicopter ride to the start, cost for chopper will be \$200 to \$300 per person. This can only go if we have the numbers to fill the chopper. Or;

(ii) Manuoha, Ruakitiri River, Pukepuke Range, Waikareiti circuit. Plenty of off track travel. People will have to confirm they are definite starters by early April, and chopper money will be collect in advance if that option is going.

Exposure !



Andrew Lynch's Mt Cook Grand Traverse in Nov 05 with Geoff Wyatt. I also hear whispers about the North Buttress of Mt Sefton!



Graham Peters satiating himself in the Otaki on the Nichols Hut Trip

TRIP REPORTS

Ruahine Ramble, Huxley Lodge, Nichols Hut, Iron Gates Gorge

Ruahine Ramble - Jan 5-8

By Martin Lawrence

Warren's Mission Statement for this trip was to have a summery ramble in a pleasant corner of the Ruahines. With that in mind, and the fact the weather forecast was "interesting", we convened in Peter's lounge and re-focussed on Lake Colenso rather than the original plan which was to involve heading out from Table Flat and ending up in the Sawtooth Ridge area. The new plan had us heading up the Mokai Patea then down to Lake Colenso. We would then loop back via Maropea Forks.

I was pleased that there was a bit of cloud as we slogged up the open Mokai Patea Ridge. In a dell on the other side we discovered a large and tasty looking mushroom, which we picked for an entrée that night. We thought that the beech forest heading down to Iron Bark Hut was in particularly good shape. After Iron Bark a considerable amount of pea-sized hail fell, which then turned to rain just after we arrived at the hut. The day was warm though, and it was an excellent walk past some interesting limestone formations.

Day Two dawned great and we had a few photo ops of the lake as we headed steeply up and over towards the Unknown Campsite. Some of this track, and walk downstream was a little rugged. Once we reached the days high point of Puketaramea, we were astonished to see a large amount of fresh snow down Sawtooth Ridge way. So our Plan A would have been chilly. As we descended steeply to Maropea Forks we frightened two deer on the large slip just above the Forks.

We were back up that hill the next day for a shortish walk to Otukota Hut. The snow down South appeared to have gone. That night we rapidly turned off my white spirits cooker as we noticed a fuel leakage. The cooker was fairly new but the O-ring had perished, apparently not a common thing, but in future I think I'll take the spare ring with me.

We were out before lunch on the final day so we checked out the excellent views of the Rangitikei from the road and had lunch while we watched people setting up for a bungy bounce.

Thanks Warren, this was an excellent walk, that some of hadn't been to for some time, and in my case not at all. Apart from Warren we were Peter Wiles and Anne and Martin Lawrence.

Huxley Lodge Jan 2006
A Noble Trip
By Alasdair Noble

Sunday afternoon the Noble family arrived via Blenheim and Pleasant Point. The sun was shining but a cool wind was blowing. We settled in to the lodge grabbing one of the outside cabins leaving the rest to the serious trampers. By tea time everyone had arrived, but unfortunately Terry received some bad news and planned to return home the following day.



Huxley Lodge

The night was cold, but we survived – just, in all of our polypro, this was supposed to be summer! Monday morning and Alasdair took the tramping party up to Monument hut and then Terry out to the main Highway for his return trip. Arriving back at the lodge Heather, Alex and Josie were ready for off so we took a picnic and had a walk up the North Temple.

Getting back to the lodge we moved into the main lodge and played five hundred. Tuesday saw us heading up to Monument Hut in the 4WD which was a fun trip (a bumpy rollercoaster ride) and then we tramped up the valley a wee way for lunch., and back to the car. We then left Huxley lodge and set up the tent for a couple of nights at Lake

Middleton on the side of Lake Ohau which was remarkably warmer out of the wind.



North Temple River Crossing

Thanks Terry for organising the accommodation, it was good to revisit the area and show it to our children. We were Alasdair, Heather, Josie and Alex.

Nichols Hut Jan 28-29
By Nigel Gregory

Nichols Hut has been on my "to do" list for a couple of years now. After a club trip to Shingle slip Knob to see the airplane wreck with Janet Wilson & Graham Peters.

We were camped on the tops about halfway between Angle Knob and McGregor, enjoying a beautiful sunset and looking at Nichols Hut across the Waiohine river valley. We agreed that it looked like a worthwhile trip and neither of us had been there so agreed to get it onto the trip card.

Janet, Graham & Yvette Cottam had traveled down to Otaki Forks the Friday night while I had promised to be there before 7:30 on Saturday morning. The day promised to be a beauty, warm and cloudless. On arriving at my companion's campsite I soon learned that staying in Palmy for the night was probably the best choice, it turned out that the Trampers had a group of young people for neighbours and they had partied all night....Janet was unimpressed to say the least.



Graham and Janet taking a well earned breather at Junction Knob

Well we got our gear together and moved the cars to the overnight parking spot for safe keeping. The day really was nice and we wasted no time in getting off to Waitewaewae Hut. I have never done this trip and really enjoyed the track with the swing bridges and rail track, the early part of the trip is in fact on an old logging railway.

The only actual train track visible is the corner track, which is made of iron, and I had assumed that the straight sections were pilfered but Richard Lockett later told me that the straight sections were in fact made of wood! At the end of the rail track section of the tramp is an old steam engine, very cool.

From here we headed up Saddle Creek on our way to YTTY Hut. For myself I really enjoyed this part of the trip. I had heard stories of mud and bog holes etc but found it to be a nice tramp and would recommend it for an enjoyable overnight trip. We decided to take the river route to the hut once we

reached the Otaki, it was very hot and the cool water felt great.

We stopped at hut for lunch and had a bit of a chat with a possum hunter from Tapanui in the South Island. After lunch it was up, up, up to Shoulder knob. First though we followed the Otaki River upstream a bit past a wonderful swimming hole that is well worth a visit. Yvette had it marked on her calendar for the return trip!

The tramp up to Shoulder Knob, made famous by Graham Peters who was left there by the Air force during a SAREX when their Helo broke while ferrying him there to take down a communications mast....was a hot affair.

We had a couple of rest stops on the way up and enjoyed the forest and views. Finally breaking out onto the tops we had fantastic views all around us....what a beautiful place indeed. Next stop Junction Knob.....but not

before being buzzed by a couple of mad Gliders....very cool! They actually make quite a bit of noise. Janet and Yvette were up on

Junction Knob and they said the Gliders were below them!!



Fab sign!! It has more character than the DOC ones.

As you can see we had a road sign on the way. Nichols or bust. It is a good 1.5 hrs from the turnoff on Junction Knob to Nichols hut.

We enjoyed great views all around and really didn't rush too much to get to Nichols. Over Crawford, then two more up and downs and we came to the turnoff for Nichols.

Nichols hut is a great hut in a beautiful place and I would recommend it for a stay. The sign says it is maintained by the Kapiti Branch of the NZDA and it is in good shape.

We arrive at about 6:30 for an honest 10hr day. The next day dawned just as nice as the previous...two perfect days on the Tararua tops...bloody marvelous!! The plan was for Yvette and I to go back to Otaki Forks the way we came and for Janet & Graham to head over to Maungahuka Hut and come out on Monday.

Yvette and I headed off about ½ hr before the others and had a good tramp along the tops taking photos of flowers and scenery. We

made good time and before long were heading down to YTTY at a fair clip. Before long we were over the swing bridge and Yvette was dead keen to get into the swimming hole for a cool down. I left her to it and went on to the Hut for a bit of lunch and a sit down.

YTTY is a very nice hut, and I must say that the previous guests had really gone to town and given it a good clean up. The rest of the journey back to Otaki Forks was straightforward but very hot and humid. I drank my 3L bladder empty twice on the way back to the road end. The last bit of the trip was spent discussing how nice sitting in the river was going to be, we were almost running the last K's, and Yvette told me she wasn't going to stop to chat with any of the day trippers we began to run into!

After a nice soak and cool off in the river we headed for home about 4:30 and stopped in Otaki for a quick snack. All in all I think it was

a great trip with good company, and I would recommend a trip up to Nichols hut.

Our group was Yvette Cottam, Graham Peters, Janet Wilson and Nigel Gregory.

Iron Gates Gorge 12 Feb By Warren Wheeler

Classic summer trip – too bad the weather was overcast and the Oroua River up a bit. So we took the shortcut behind the Big Rock and up through Pederson’s Bush rather than swim the raging torrent in the gorge...although Nigel was tempted. We made it back up to our two cars parked at the end of Peterson’s Road (or should that be Pederson’s Road?) in 5 hours, so it is more a “Medium” trip than “Easy”.

The first one and a half hours were fairly easy along the sidle track, with views down into the Oroua River we would travel down later. There is an “active slip” on the zigzag climb out of the unnamed creek, but it seems to have settled down and is well marked.

The Oroua River route is quite spectacular, with steep bluffs, deep green pools, and a different vista on every bend. There are numerous crossings, some rocky scrambles and plenty of rock-hopping to maximise the fun factor and provide a nice challenge without being arduous.

Floods over the last couple of years have changed the river-bed quite considerably in some places, but any pools are still no more than knicker depth or can be avoided by little up-and-around deviations. Hopefully the conditions will be more summery next time.

We were Nigel and Suzanne Gregory, Trevor King, Jo and Lawrence O’Halloran, Bianca Beznec, Rachel Steel, and Warren Wheeler (leader).

PS: On the following Sunday the glorious weather was just too tempting and a select group did it all again with me - Janet Croad, Peter Darragh, Titsiya (their Japanese student), Dave Grant. Happiness filled :-)



Graham Peters on the much anticipated Extended Te Hekenga Trip

Club Patron	Lawson Pither	357 3033	
President	Warren Wheeler	356 1998	warren.wheeler@horizons.govt.nz
Vice President	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761	B.vanBrunt@massey.ac.nz
Secretary	Dave Grant	357 8269	gaewyn.grant@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer	Alasdair Noble	356 1094	a.d.noble@massey.ac.nz
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	marionandmick@inspire.net.nz
Gear Custodian	Mick Leyland	358 3183	marionandmick@inspire.net.nz
Newsletter Editor	Lance Gray	356 6454	gray.family@actrix.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 7439	kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz