

PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - April 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.

13 Apr Club Night – Bruce van Brunt Korea Trekking

Bruce stole off to Korea on University business he tells us, but now it is obvious he was scoping Korea for some climbing trips! Come along for a presentation that will be a surprise to us all.

20 Apr Committee Meeting

27 Apr BYO Slides Night

What did you get up to this Summer? This is the opportunity to use the new digital projector so no excuses to hide those exhilarating memories. Great opportunity to play with the new technology.

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

TRIPS

**Apr 2 Wgtn Urban Tramping M
Martin Lawrence 357-1695**

Urban tramping? Yeah right! To the uninitiated Wellington appears to be a city with no opportunity for what you might call tramping but anyone who knows anything about mountain running will know that Wellington is home to New Zealand's best. So be prepared for some surprises as Martin takes you on this urban

adventure. No need for a mountain radio on this one. Contact Martin for more details.

**Apr 8-9 Mohaka Hot Pools M
Mick Leyland 358-3183**

Join Mick for a soak at the famous Mohaka Hot Pools. These pools have been featured recently in Wilderness Magazine so don't miss out. The drive out to the pools is itself and interesting experience which takes you out behind Napier. Please contact Mick for further details.

**Apr 9 Jumbo/Holdsworth F
Anja Scholz 356-6454**

Join Anja for this rewarding day trip from the Mount Holdsworth road end. While most of the daylight hours will be used don't be put off as the track conditions for most of this tramp are very good. Saves having to pack for an overnight trip!

**Apr 14-17 Bridge to Nowhere M
Malcolm Leary (06) 322-8533**

The ideal Easter trip that avoids the hassle of booking accommodation. With this trip up into the Wanganui River region Malcolm will be requiring tents and the Hilux I am told. What would a farmer be without the trusty Hilux! The end result will be a relaxing walk on good surfaces to the Bridge to Nowhere and return.

**Apr 17 Sledge Track Loop M
Dave Grant 357-8269**

Besides being the most convenient track for those of us in Palmerston North, Dave might even allow a sleep in, the Sledge Track is great fun with always something new to look at and talk about. Contact Dave for further details.

**Apr 22-23 Totara Flats E
Richard Lockett 323-0948**

Totara Flats Hut is one of the newest additions to the comfortable Tararua Huts on offer. If you

have been to the new Roaring Stag Hut you will know what we mean. Totara Flats is an easy weekend trip with plenty of things to look at should you choose to fossick around.

Apr 20-25 (Extd) ANZAC Weekend M
Ruakituri Valley, Urewera NP
Terry Crippen 356-3588

Leaving Thurs 20th afternoon, returning Tues 25th. Staying Thursday night at Aniwanuiwa. Then from the Lake Waikaremoana Rd up to Manuoha (the highest point in Urewera NP), along and down into the Ruakituri. This is now designated as Wilderness Area within Urewera NP. Down valley and up the Te Kie and onto the Pukepuke Range, then out via Waikareiti. Track, off track and river travel; hut and flycamp. (The Rua's Track option, requiring the use of chopper for access could still go if required numbers of people confirm intentions -see notices in last months newsletter.)

Apr 23 Mitre Hut Loop F
Malcolm Parker 357-5203

Join Malcolm for what proposes to be an interesting days tramping. Mitre Hut is generally accessed from the Barra Track off Upper Plain Road in the eastern Tararuas with plenty of interesting return options back to the carpark for the adventurous. Contact Malcolm for more details.

Apr 29-30 Wakelings Hut M
Tony Gates 357-7439

Join Tony for a wander around the Mokai Patea range located in the western Ruahines. Knowing Tony there will be a number of options to be debated and eventually settled upon.

Apr 30 Mikimiki Track E/M
Fiona Donald 356-1095

The Mikimiki Track just off the main road to the North of Masterton was originally used for hauling timber out of the Tararuas which means it has gentle gradients (pretty much flat) and makes it ideal for an enjoyable Sunday walk. Has a couple of streams to cross and gorgeous bush Café potential written all over this. Leaving Countdown at 8am.

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

Maungahuka Hut

Construction of the new Maungahuka Hut has started. The existing hut will be closed to Visitors from Saturday 18 March until further notice.

Early Notice

Queens B'day Weekend Coastal Trip **- Janet Wilson 329-4722**

The plan is to go to d'Urville Island for two or three nights. Plans are in the initial stages but will involve taking an extra long weekend - probably travelling down on the Thursday night or during Friday, returning either Monday or Tuesday. I need to know numbers as soon as possible so that I can arrange transport and accommodation - contact Janet (329-4722) if you think you would like to come along. Numbers may be limited and there is already quite a bit of interest in this trip.



- PNTMC 40th Anniversary Cake

TRIP REPORTS

**Extended Te Hekenga Crossing, Nichols Hut Extension, Top Maropea Hut, Rangi Retro
(PNTMC 40th Anniversary Trip), Life's Rich Tapestry, Auto Exposure Sefton,
The Mud was Warm, Longview Hut**



PNTMC 40th Anniversary Trip to Rangiwahia Hut

Te Hekenga Crossing - Jan 21/23 By Graham Peters

Amongst the members of PNTMC are many and varied skills and background. Some of these may even be useful on a tramping trip. For instance, if one were to have a geologist by training on the trip, one might think that he could be useful in interpreting the landforms when it comes to route choice. One might think that - but I'm getting ahead of myself..

The rather sketchy plan was to head up the Whanahuia range looping over or beyond Te Hekenga back to the car via the Ngamoko Range. Because we could, Janet, Terry and myself left Pohangina on Friday afternoon and started off up the Oroua river. Just below

Tunupo stream we crossed the Oroua to the hunters camp then headed up the spur to the southern end of the Whanahuia. About 45 minutes up there is a nice flat area close to a stream where we planned to camp the night.

After a surprisingly cold night we carried on up. The last time I'd been up there we had trouble in the scrub zone before the still passable track through the leatherwood. This time we had no trouble finding our way into the leatherwood and were pleased to see that there has been some judicious pruning. We had good views as we made our way along the range, undulating but generally gaining altitude. Once we gained the Deadmans Rangi route the travel got a bit faster, however it was getting later in the day. At the

top of the track down to Triangle hut we discussed options. The weather looked threatening and we weren't geared up for camping on the tops in bad weather so we headed down to Triangle. There were a couple of people in the hut so we camped.

That evening after dinner, we discussed the options for the morrow. We knew it was possible to go all the way up the Oroua to the ridge between Mangamahue and Te Hekenga but none of us had done it and there were choices. If we followed the river north for about 1.5km it then forked. The eastern branch was longer and gentler whilst the western one was much shorter and steeper. Being basically motivated by making things easy for ourselves, we, including geologist Terry, decided on the longer, gentler hence easier branch.

In the morning, after an initial easy sidle above a gorged pool, we romped up the river to the forks. A quick bite to eat then up our fork of choice, 50m on a waterfall. Never mind, up a bit of a scree that we thought might be a bit dodgy if you wanted to go down, a scruffle down some steep bush with a final slide back into the stream. This branch was a bit more confined than the river had been. After about another 100m we came to another waterfall. Sidling above this one we were pushed higher and higher to avoid bluffs. As we were traversing and discussing whether to drop back to the stream or carry on with our high slow sidle looking further ahead we saw an even bigger waterfall. This was where our geologist proved his worth and skill at hindsight.

According to Terry, of course the longer gentler stream would be the more difficult. Because it's gentler there's not as much erosion to send down gravel to fill up and even up the stream floor. To further cheer us up, he told us that the waterfalls were where bands of bluffs intersected with the streambed. From our eerie like classroom for Geology 101, we could see quite a few of these bands of bluffs. The thought of spending the next two days making our way up this stream appealed to none of us so we made a retreat.

Back at the stream junction we decided to

give the other branch a go. If it became gorgey or at all difficult we'd go to plan C. In fact it proved to be a delight, a broad open streambed that steadily got steeper and narrower ending in a scree headwall with a tussock basin off to one side that put us on the ridge perfectly timed for lunch.

After lunch we carried on up and over Te Hekenga, sidling below the cheval pitch and on to Taumataomekura where we arrived for afternoon tea. We eased our way over the edge of the basin to the south of Tiraha looking out for the Tiraha deer herd. About 200m below us we saw a lone deer. There was a strong breeze blowing directly from us to it and as I watched through the binoculars it turned, looked directly at us, then walked down and out of sight into a hollow. A few minutes later, it and 3 others came into sight further down the basin. From there, it wasn't so far to Howletts where we spent the night.

Next morning we were pleased to see was fine and calm. From here it was to be a straight forward jaunt along Daphne Ridge to Taumatataua then across the saddle to the Ngamoko Range and along to Tunupo and the long ridge track back to the Oroua river track. That was pretty much how it was. We had lunch a short while before Tunupo then while sitting at the top of Tunupo were joined by a couple of day trippers and watched a family group of 7, obviously of widely differing fitness levels, making their way up from the bush edge.

The ridge track doesn't get any shorter but we were back at the carpark at about 3.30pm after a jolly satisfying weekend.

Nichols Hut Extension – Jan 28/29 By Janet Wilson

It seemed like a good idea, after making the effort to get to Nichols Hut, to take a long weekend and visit for the first time, Maungahuka Hut, as it is soon to be replaced by a new hut. And, I had never been over the Tararua Peaks before. So, we waved goodbye to Yvette and Nigel at Nichols Hut, and headed off in the same direction, probably at a slightly slower pace. From the top of Crawford, we could see them heading rapidly back down towards YTTY,

nearly on Shoulder Knob. We continued on to Anderson Memorial Hut, where we chatted with 3 hunters, who had flown in for a few days but had had no luck. It was a very hot day again with a hot NE wind blowing from the Wairarapa and we weren't hurrying. The track along the tops here has been recently cut and it was easy travel underfoot, over a series of high points, to Maungahuka Hut. Cloud came in during the afternoon and it was mostly claggy at the hut that evening - we could just get a few glimpses of our route for the next day.

Next morning the cloud was still there. It was interesting traveling over the peaks - not difficult in summer conditions but you probably need a head for heights. The ladder is easy but quite long. The route is well trodden, though from reading in the hut book, there must be at least one place where you can easily go wrong (I think coming from the other direction). The track along this part of the range to the main Otaki Forks - Kime track, is rather boggy and overgrown and has not been cut recently - perhaps when the new hut is built. We had a few moments of confusion near the track junction in the mist but soon had that sorted and had lunch before heading back down to the car - a very enjoyable trip extension. DOC told me that the hut should be closed from Mid Feb so check with them if you are heading that way. The party consisted of Janet Wilson and Graham Peters.

Top Maropea Hut Feb 13 By Neil Campbell

We left Palmerston North at about 7am following State Highway 2 through Woodville and Dannevirke, passing Norsewood, and then turning off on to State Highway 50. We then turned into Wakarara Road (I initially missed it much to my embarrassment) and finally turned into North Block Road.

After a few gate openings and closings we found ourselves at the start of the walk at about 9am. We made our way up to Sunrise Hut getting there around 11.10am. The track to Sunrise Hut is of an extremely high quality with signs along the way pointing out interesting features. This hut has recently

been expanded and will now accommodate hordes of trampers.

After a 'first lunch' we continued on. We were now out on the tops at an altitude of around 1300m. We had perfect fine weather and excellent views with a slight heat haze. Continuing on to Armstrong Saddle there is a sign noting that the name comes from a Mr Armstrong who crashed his plane there in the 1930s.

At this saddle you can see Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe. From there we made our way across and down to Top Maropea Hut. We reached this small mountain hut at a bit before 1pm. We had our 'second lunch' and then headed back to the cars. On the drive home we took a break in Dannevirke and bought some fuel.

The party consisted of: Neil Campbell (leader), John Feeney, John White, Noelene White, Pauline Knuckey, Anja Scholz and Barbara Mare.



The team at Top Maropea Hut

Retro Rangi Feb 25-26 By Doug Strachan

Warren, Richard and I decided to leave for Rangi Saturday afternoon. We took Warren's ancient car as this was a retro trip. It was 6pm before we started walking because we had to wait for Warren to stop fiddling with his pocket knife.

The sign said 3hrs to Rangi, but someone with a pocket knife had carved the number '1'

and a decimal point in front of the '3,' suggesting the trip could be made in 1.3hrs.

On the way up, my balloon popped due to the drop in external air pressure. Tip: under-inflate the balloons you tie to your pack. The slip was unquestionably impassable, so we took the steep detour. On a trip 18mths earlier, we had easily crossed the officially-closed slip route.

Richard set a cracking pace so, despite being weighed down with glass bottles and goodies, we made it to the hut in just 1hr 25mins. We had the hut to ourselves and thought it a pity others hadn't come along to experience the unusual dead-calm conditions. Once it got dark, the stars were incredible, seeming far brighter and more numerous than when viewed from town. Looking at the Southern Cross, Warren was saying something about it being a 'Rolex,' with the constellation rotating about a central axis throughout the night.

I staggered out of bed during the night and, while relieving myself, wondered what the time was. Half-awake, blurry-eyed and without glasses, I couldn't even find Warren's bloody Rolex let alone remember how to read it. In the morning, we wandered up to Mangahuia, which took about an hour. We had great views that took in Maungamahue, Triangle Hut, Tunupo, Kaikouras, Egmont, Ruapehu.

Warren was keen to return to Rangi Hut via the stream just north of the hut, which we somewhat hesitantly agreed to do. I had visions of writing a trip report with the title "How we missed the club's 40th." We dropped down into the stream and encountered Spaniards and leatherwood; gaiters that extend up over one's buttocks would have been useful. When we reached a waterfall, perhaps 15m high, we thought it prudent to leave the valley to ensure we would be back at Rangi in time to celebrate the club's anniversary with the day trippers.

We arrived at the hut at about the same time as Dave's party turned up. They had carried up a footprint-shaped cake big enough to feed 30 people. Unfortunately we didn't get the numbers that Rangi gatherings used to draw in the old days, although that was

largely due to competing events on the same weekend, like the Kaweka Challenge, and Bic Runga in concert.

We had a tasty picnic lunch, and there was little trace of a boot print after we had made our impression. Terry adorned the hut wall with some old Rangi photos, and I read out some snippets about Rangi's history, which created some interesting discussion. Terry told us that the pine trees that club members painstakingly helped the Forest Service plant on the slips were later drilled and poisoned.

Here are a few snippets from old newsletters: "You can hardly call yourself a proper Club member until you have been to Rangi, and who wants to be improper?" (1975).

"When the Sunday work party arrived, it was discovered that the ladder to be used for work on the hut roof had been dismantled by Bill and used in building our toilet." (1975)

"They came in dresses short and long, heels high and low, lipstick and nail polish – and that was only the guys!" (1986 midwinter celebration with vice-versa theme).



President Wheeler cutting the 40th Anniversary cake lovingly carried by Dave Grant (Secretary) to Rangi Hut

Being a retro tramp, we had to sing at least one club song from the old days: ... "Oh, I've had a gutsful, Of tramps where the huts full! There'll be no more double-bunking, double-bunking for me!"

On the way out, we stopped at the waterfall. Warren had bathed in the pool the day before. Terry climbed up to have a look at the other pool at the top of the waterfall. He said it was always customary for the girls to bath in the upper pool, while the men get the bottom pool and therefore the girls' used bath water. Strange indeed are the ways of the natives.

We were:

Overnighters: Richard Lockett, Warren Wheeler, Doug Strachan.

Day trippers: Trevor King, Lance Gray, Anja Scholz, Terry Crippen, Dave Grant, Janet Maessen, Peter Maessen, Fran Croad, Tatsuya-kun.

P.S. There are many other interesting tales about Rangī, but you will just have to wait a few months until I've finished compiling the Club's history. However, I will leave you with this wonderful item written by Lawson Pither nearly 13yrs ago:

**June 1993 newsletter:
LIFE'S RICH TAPESTRY**

As the Club's patron and invited to put pen to paper for this editorial, I hope you'll enjoy this narration of events which took place in the sixties shortly after the PNTMC was formed.

At that time, members had finished relocating and remodelling Rangiwahia Ski Club Hut which was then officially recognised by the NZ Forest Service as the PNTMC Club Hut. As mountain huts went it was comfortable, weatherproof and a most satisfactory retreat in bad weather, but lacked an efficient wood burning stove suitable for cooking purposes.

The following is the storey of the stove. A group of four, comprising the President and three committee members, decided that the stove appealed as a worthwhile project but the Club had no spare funds and so economy was to be the name of the game. One Saturday, the four set off with trailer to investigate the Ballance to Pahiatua area,

searching for lone chimneys (the results of house fires). The theory was that most of those chimneys would have a stove at the foot. There were many of these chimneys in this area but after years of weathering the majority were in appallingly bad condition or had been removed for use in the "New House".

After enquiries concerning many chimneys, a generous farmer gave this group of eccentrics a reasonably good sample of the stove maker's art which finished up in the writer's garden shed (cum garage). None of the group had experience in the field of stove engineering but it was decided to strip down and rebuild it. The stripping was completed and the shed which comfortably accommodated a car became full of sooty parts.

The group met regularly with much socializing, tea drinking etc, and after about six weeks, the job was done at no cost to the Club. It was time for the trial run and the little beauty was moved into the garden and stoked up. She drew perfectly and an experiment with water in the wet-back pipe was tried and had unexpected results. A jet of super-heated water shot out and demolished a row of Brussels sprouts. We decided then that a hot water service in the Hut was beyond the group's capability.

The second phase was to deliver the stove to Rangī Hut. At that time our club had an excellent relationship with the NZ Forest Service who very kindly offered to deliver the stove by helicopter. All they required was it to be delivered to their base at Pohangina. The group were delighted to comply with the above and in due course farmers in the Rangiwahia area were surprised to see a helicopter with a stove suspended underneath heading in towards Rangī Hut in very cloudy conditions.

A message was received from NZFS that the pilot could not see the Hut but had put the stove down on a knob which showed through the clouds. A search party from the club found the lost stove about a mile from the Hut on the snow covered slopes of Mangahua. It was easy to fix the stove onto a sheet of galvanised iron, and with ropes on each

corner - behold a sledge! To sledge it down to the hut, it was decided that the President (myself) would control proceedings from the sledge. The rope parties provided forward momentum and when required the rear parties acted as brakes on the steep slopes.

What developed was that the arranged load hurtled down hills at high speed, the President abandoned ship and the front rope party shot off to each side, out of the path of the juggernaut. Sufficient control or plain luck meant that the sledge did not descend the steep gully to the right of the track and the journey was completed very quickly without injury to the haulers. The front of the hut was taken out and the stove put in and the chimney attached and the first brew under way – total cost nil.

Those taking part were: Wayne Bauchard, Roger Clarke, Keith Potter and Lawson Pither. Looking to the future, I wish the Club many years of happy tramping - Lawson.

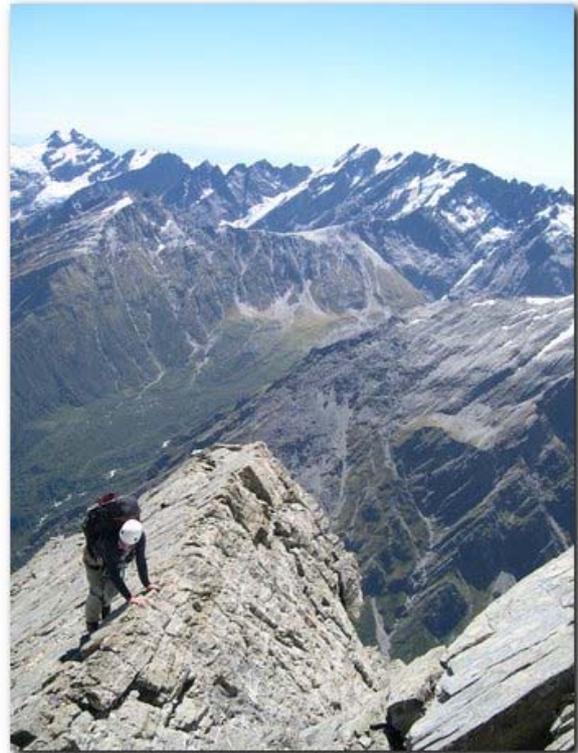
Auto-Exposure Sefton By Andrew Lynch

As the softness of the bush, with its birds and their song, and the comfort of the Copland River rolling safely beneath the levelled and well worn track gave way to the more open alpine meadows at Douglas Rock Hut the enormity of our undertaking became apparent. There, before us, rising two and a half thousand metres from the valley floor was the summit of Mt. Sefton. Sheer rock outcrops mixed with over-hangs, slabs, and other not seen or wished not to be seen obstacles, was the North Ridge of this stunning mountain.

Burdened by heavy packs we entered the Jasper Streambed and made our way towards slabs that were intermingled with tussock grass. Moving higher and higher over steep rock, having to use the rope several times, we finally arrived on easier ground under the first massive buttress. Being late in the day, and with the proximity of good water, we made camp to the amusement of two cheeky Rock Wrens

The freshness of the morning promised a hot day. The impediment of the first buttress rose

dauntingly 800 metre above as a climbing line was decided upon. All morning was a steady and careful upwards movement. The exposure had become appallingly real. Good climbing rock quickly dissolved into blank sections with very few holds or placements for protection. There were few options, turn left or right but it was always upwards, no retreat was available. The rope and protection remained in the packs except for the most difficult moves, speed was essential on such a climb!



No description needed

We worked quietly and progressively, absorbed in our thoughts, the fear building, always exposed to the dreadful declivity that both gravity and the nemesis of the packs wanted to drag us into. Onwards and upwards, there was no retreat. Our hands were slippery with sweat, and our tongues were starting to swell with dehydration, and still we had no protection, or even a ledge to sit down on for lunch or rest. The Copland track was now nearly 2km below us. Aoraki, La Perouse, and The Footstool were our only company.

Suddenly, our vertical world transformed itself into a level "Cheval", 50m of horizontal, then onto the next buttress. So it continued to the third buttress. The rock eventually gave way

to snow above the Jasper Glacier. We negotiated an ice headwall, again horribly exposed and steep, onto a moderate rib and the summit became tantalizing close.

It was a tranquil evening, the Hermitage lights had begun to twinkle far below us, the air was still and warm, and at 6.30pm at a height of 3151m we had arrived on one of New Zealand's great peaks. We rested for a while, dehydrated and exhausted, studying the Douglas Neve for a route through the labyrinth of vast crevasses, it looked unworkable and it was late in the day. We walked down into evening shadows, unsure, tired, hungry, thirsty, and with a long way to go. Unsuccessful in rappelling down into the smallest of crevasses we climbed back onto the West Ridge which gave us good travel above most obstacles to a scoop, arriving just on darkness, for the night.

Scott Creek, with its mammoth rocks and waterfalls showing their great power and majesty, was a delight to be in. Again, care had to be taken as our surroundings were still very large and ragged, but Scott Creek soon led us to the glorious hot pools of Welcome Flats. What more could you want?



Andrew must love exposure!

The Mud was Warm – Mar 11

By Tony Gates

(The Tararua Mountain Race 2006)

Eight hours it took me, eight grunting hours to run, splash, tramp, limp, and crawl from Kaitoke to Otaki Forks. Andrew Symonds, the open section winner, completed the run in 4.27.27- an awesome time that smashed Colin Rolfe's long standing record. Despite muddy conditions, it was a fast course, with Carline Thomas breaking the womens individual veteran record by almost half an hour, and Christy Lyon and Jillian Preston breaking the mixed open team's record by a good 20 minutes. Janet Wilson and Nigel Gregory won the mixed veterans section in 7.18.28, chasing me all the way. There were numerous other fast times, as the 80 competitors ran in the 17th Tararua Mountain Race.

My day of enjoyment in the Tararuas began one hour before the next mob, to allow me to get ahead for photography. A pitch black morning start up the puffer, then the mud and roots of the Marchant Ridge track, plus the loneliness, hardly spurred me on. At least the mud was warm. I pulled into Alpha Hut in 4 hours in first position. So can I really lay claim to being in the lead for half of the race?

Andrew Symonds would have left the car park a full two hours after me, yet would pull into Alpha Hut an hour after me. The stuff of legends. He is a lean, mean running machine, who deservedly won three of New Zealand's best mountain running events in 2006- the Jumbo Holdsworth, the Kaweka Challenge, and now, the Tararua Mountain Race. It was an honour to watch him perform.

Over Alpha peak, the Dress Circle, and the big climb up to Atkinson, I was feeling OK, and pouring more than a little nutrition into me. In fact, overall, the food, water, and supplements did me well for the day. There were plenty of puddles about to drink from, and a pretty muddy trail to follow. But the day was warming up, and there were several good bursts of sunshine through the typical Tararua mist. The blustery wind didn't seem too bad, as there were numerous sheltered sidles on the track. There were a few photo

pauses, with runners catching me, passing me, and some even giving me the opportunity to run with them for a bit. I probably lost about 20 minutes in all for photography, and was pleased with the results- although there were several blurred photos of tussock, people's arms and legs, and mud puddles.

Andrew Symonds literally flew past me on the big haul up to Atkinson, then another sub 5 hour runner, Dougal Thorborn, skittered along painlessly and speedily. Carline Thomas was next past me, but not before I snapped a couple of photos of her, then several others near the summit of Mt Hector. Clear skies then, and a few other runners visible on various knobs and hills around the place. It was just about all downhill from there, with good weather, a good trail, and numerous runners to run with.

I checked into Kime Hut feeling good, and nicked over to Bridge Peak with several other competitors. They pulled away from me on the steep descent to Dennan, which surprised

me, as I am usually pretty fast on the downhill. The day seemed to get pretty lonely from then, till Table Top, as I wondered where the big mob of runners was- a little behind me it would seem. One very fit and strong runner passed me at Field Hut, and I heard a few others behind me. I kept ahead in the forest, feeling as if I had no run left in me.

Paul Andrewes, soon off to compete in a mega mountain run in USA, hounded me for a bit, and spurred me on, and I found a little more run in me. But I knew it couldn't last- by the time I reached the farmland, my walk-run was reduced to a slow shuffle. A couple of little blisters were beginning to feel, and stomach pains, but nothing major. Otaki Forks beckoned, so the final 10 minutes on the farmland was half walk, half slow jog. Slow and steady was my best technique, and it worked for me. Surprisingly soon after the finish, I felt quite OK, without any major aches and pains.



Nigel Gregory looking fit at the Kaweka Challenge

Longview Hut – Mar 19 By John Feeney

You would have thought with the end of Daylight Saving Time most folk would have enjoyed the chance to spend an extra hour in bed.. Not everybody! Five keen trampers set off through the gorge over to Central Hawke's Bay to complete the "Longview Hut Loop. Two new members in the party even travelled from Levin to be with us. Our trip took us across the now parched farms of Highway 50 then inland at Ashley Clinton to find the entrance to the Ruahine Park at Moorcock Base and reach the start of our five hour walk about 9am. Our driver John was ably directed by Shona. On an earlier trip into this area Lance demonstrated how easy it is to get lost following these back country roads.

The track up to Longview is open, steep in places but well formed and quickly provides stunning views of the countryside. With a hot day and semi-fit trampers we kept up an easy pace to reach a deserted Longview Hut for morning tea. Hunks of deer meat hanging in the rear of the hut (and three packs) indicated we were not alone. There were hunters in the area. (We passed them later on our walk coming back from an unsuccessful shoot). On leaving the hut Shona shouted out has

anyone done the idiot check to see if any gear was left behind? She was staggered to find some clothing had been left in the hut and it was hers! Following our planned route we donned warm clothing and set off along a very gusty ridge in a northerly direction to intercept with the track to Daphne hut our route back down to the Forestry Road. We were battered around by the wind but it was an invigorating experience being part of such a dramatic environment. Into the bush of the Daphne hut track and time for lunch and relaxation and conversation.

After lunch Pauline led a lively pace down the track through the beach forest. This part of the track provides a welcome contrast to the bony landscapes around Longview Hut. It started to get very hot again and we were very low on water by the time we had reached the access road at the start of Daphne track. The final part of this loop is completed by walking about 2 Kilometres back to the car park at the start of the Longview Track. We kept well together as a group and although uneventful the walk was a good medium tramp and a chance to take in some stunning countryside. Those in our group were Pauline Knuckey, Greg Dobson, Victoria Sinclair, Shona Ellims and John Feeney.



PNTMC 40th Anniversary Trip to Rangiwahia Hut

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	Aprionandmick@inspire.net.nz
Gear Custodian	Mick Leyland	358 3183	Aprionandmick@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