



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

**Newsletter - July 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 visitor's book.*

**13 July Club Night**  
**Snowcraft Introduction**  
**Bruce van Brunt /**  
**Alasdair Noble**

This is first contact for those intending to participate in PNTMCs, world famous in the Manawatu, snowcraft programme. Opportunity to meet your instructors and be introduced to some of the equipment you will use over the snowcraft weekend.

**20 July Committee Meeting**

**27 July Club Night**  
**Club Photo Competition**

Time to get out those digital images slides and prints from those summer trips (see notices for details).

Please note final submission date is **20 July**.

## TRIPS

**July 1-2 Powell Hut E/M**  
**Warren Wheeler 356-1998**

Depart 8.00am. Turn right towards the Tararua Forest Park just before Masterton. From the Mt Holdsworth carpark it is about 3 hours up to Powell Hut, which is right on the bush line below Mt Holdsworth at 1470m. Expect beautiful snow-covered scenery and a nice big warm hut with sunrise views. A further short walk will get us to the summit depending on snow conditions. Return options include via Jumbo Hut or via the old Mountain House track.

**July 2 Pohangina Pathways E**  
**Janet Wilson 329-4722**

Departing Pohangina 9am. A winter walk around some of the many Pohangina Pathways. Route to be decided - you let me know where you'd like to go - Perhaps around the reserve and the Fern Walk. Back to the Waterford for coffee and cake or maybe to Janets for soup.

**July 8-9 Howletts Sawtooth F**  
**(Full Moon)**  
**Tony Gates 357-7439**

Join Tony for this classic Ruahine trip. Accommodation of course is the equally iconic Howletts Hut which will still have some coal left for a potentially chilly night. Always the possibility of snow at this time of year so basic use of crampons and an ice-axe would be useful. Contact Tony for further details.

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).

**July 9 Mt Cook to the Sea E/T  
Warren Wheeler 356-1998**

Depart 6.30am for a dawn assault on the south face of Mt Cook, 58,000mm asl – the highest point between PN and West Island. No experience required. You don't have to be mad but it would help. Ice axes and crampons essential. A compulsory swim at Himatangi will follow. (contact Warren if you need to hire from the club).

**July 15-16 Elder Biv (4wd) EM  
Andrew Lynch 325-8779**

Elder Biv is located in the area best described as being just off the Akatarawa Road heading towards the peak of Aston which is on the Southern Crossing route. Given that Andrew is taking his 4wd this will be a trip with limited places so get to Andrew quickly.

**July 16 Burn Hut M  
Dave Grant 357-8269**

Burn Hut is "newish" with an even more "newish" bridge across the stream. We have seen Mick unsuccessfully try and swim the stream so this really helps! The track starts near the Mangahao Dams which are in behind Shannon. Leaving Countdown at 8am.

**July 21 (Friday) Applications close for  
SNOWCRAFT**

See notices.

**July 22-23 Outdoor first aid (NZMSC)  
John Wallace 353-3616**

**July 22-23 Tutuwai Hut M  
Anja Scholz 356-6454**

Tuwai Hut lies along the upper reaches of the Tauherinikau River in the southern parts of the Tararua Forest Park. The final route can be tailored to suit weather and participants. Leaving Countdown at 7am. Contact Anja for further details.

**July 23 Herepai Hut M  
Doug Strachan 353-6526**

Join Doug for a visit to the Tararua Forest Park's most northerly hut accessed from Putara Road in behind Eketahuna. Always time for a coffee on the way home with this one. Walk in does involve one stiff climb but the views from just above the hut will make

this a distant and delightful memory by trips end. Contact Doug for further details.

**July 25 (Tues) Snowcraft 1 evening for  
participants**

See notices.

**July 29-30 Snowcraft 1 M/I  
Terry Crippen 3563-588**

See notices.

**July 29-30 Richard Lockett E/M  
Karori Wildlife Sanctuary**

Richard tells me that yes, this is an overnight trip with accommodation for a small fee at a friend's place in the delightfully middle-class suburb of Pukerua Bay. Accommodation includes free guided tour of the area as well. As a recent visitor to the Kaori Wildlife Sanctuary I can only endorse a club trip there. Something for everyone whether it is to slightly stretch the legs and look at a few exhibits or make a point of walking every path on offer. Not likely to be cancelled because of flooded rivers.

**July 30 Pat Janssen F/T  
Ngauruhoe 021-516-966**

Will not be cancelled for a lack of snow given what we have seen already. Good opportunity to test out your snowcraft skills and get some use out of that expensive equipment. Will definitely require the use of ice-axe and crampons which can be hired from the club. Contact Pat for further details.

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

### SNOWCRAFT PROGRAMME

The Club's comprehensive snowcraft programme has two aims: Firstly, to equip you with the necessary skills for safe tramping in snow, be it on winter trips, or summer trips above the snowline. Secondly, to pass on the fundamental skills for snow climbing and mountaineering. The programme consists of three weekends (Friday night departure to Ruapehu or Egmont) and a Tuesday 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 in one or two of the weekends depending on their previous experience or ambitions. Numbers are limited, so enrol now to confirm a place.

Dates are as follows:

#### DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FRIDAY 21<sup>TH</sup> JULY

**Snowcraft 1** 29-30 July (evening Tue 25<sup>th</sup>)

**Snowcraft 2** 12-13 Aug (evening Tue 8<sup>th</sup>)

**Snowcraft 3** 26-27 Aug (evening Tues 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Fees cover weeknight venues, transport, weekend accommodation, most food, group gear hire, and instruction. Individual gear hire, if needed, is an additional cost for non PNTMC members.

<u>SC1</u>	<u>SC2</u>	<u>SC3</u>
\$130	\$145	\$135
\$135	\$150	\$140

#### Total Package

\$395 PNTMC member  
\$410 non PNTMC members

Further info, & registration form; contact Terry Crippen 3563-588, Bruce van Brunt 328-4761, or Alasdair Noble 356-1094.

### Caretaker Required – Whakapapa Village

Like wintersport? Like free rent at Whakapapa village? A caretaker is required for Forest & Bird's Ruapehu Lodge (near DoC Visitor's Centre at Whakapapa Village) during winter 2006. Free private room in exchange for warden duties. For further info contact Tracey Hinton [t.hinton@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:t.hinton@forestandbird.org.nz); or 04 385 7374.

#### FMC 75th AGM Terry Crippen

I had the pleasure of being PNTMC's delegate at this year's AGM of FMC (Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ) the other weekend - held this time at Te Papa. It was the 75th AGM and there was a sit-down celebratory luncheon put on for delegates as well. (For those of you who may think what's this; FMC squandering moneys on a big feed! - No, the venue hire and celebratory lunch was paid for by a generous donation from FMC's Patron Allan Evans -thank you Allan).

It is always worthwhile to attend FMC AGMs; to meet with delegates and observers from other clubs, and to discuss a wide range of topics relating to the outdoors, usually with a number of workshops being held. Currently much work is being done by the FMC executive on topics including; access issues, high country tenure review, outdoor safety, its six-pack of parks campaign, DoC concessions, as well as specific advocacy on recreation issues in all the different parts of NZ.

We as club members benefit directly from all this hard work done on our behalf. Thus your \$10 affiliation component of PNTMC subs is worth much more than just the discounts obtained with the FMC card, book and map orders; and the good reading in the FMC bulletin. For further info on FMC check out their web site ([www.fmc.org.nz](http://www.fmc.org.nz)), there is link to it on PNTMC's site.

#### Six Monthly Events Calendar July to Dec 2004

This has been ably put together by Tony and Janet. Thank you all club members who

have volunteered to lead trips. Lots of excellent trips for everybody; winter, spring and summer. Instruction as well, and a good selection of club nights.

**TRIP LEADERS:** Don't forget your responsibilities. To remind you of what the club requires of you in leading a PNTMC trip, pick up a "Guide for Trip Leaders" at club night, or ask Janet or Tony for one. New leaders, take some time to go through the guide (full version on one side –tick box on the other). Seasoned leaders –use it as a timely reminder. Any club member-grab a copy, see what should be done on your behalf.

### Three particular reminders:

1. All leaders please remember to consult a trip coordinator AND tell the newsletter editor, if you can't lead the scheduled Club trip, or want to change the date or destination. This is for safety and advertising reasons and to save any embarrassment with club night announcements.

2. All leaders remember to leave full details of the trip as per guidelines in case a trip is overdue, or in extremely rare cases a search and/or rescue has to be initiated. Use the NZMSC Pink Form as is, or as a guide to what is need to be recorded and left with a Club Overdue Contact or your "responsible contact at home".

3. Club Trip Feedback Form: Trip participants (including leaders) use this to give the committee information regarding the trip you went on. Accidents and significant incidents are required to be reported. We are happy to receive any comment –"good" or "bad" about the trip. Hand it to a trip co-ordinator or put it in the flowery box on the bookcase at club night.

Copies of the above material are always available at club night; on PNTMC's bookcase, or ask a committee member.)

## Annual Photo Competition 27 July 2006

**Limit of 3 digital images or slides per person per category, but no limit on prints.**

Entries must not have been entered previously and must be related to tramping, climbing activities.

Digital images, slides and photographs must be labelled with name and entry category (title optional).

All slides must have a cross on the bottom left-hand corner of the mount.

### Categories

1. Alpine NZ – alpine scenery in New Zealand
2. Scenic NZ – scenery below the bushline
3. Natural History – NZ flora and fauna or other natural phenomena
4. Topical NZ – special interest and people activity on your trips
5. Overseas Alpine – overseas alpine scenery
6. Overseas People – climbers or people met while tramping, climbing overseas

### Formats

- Digital images
- Slides
- Prints

### Digital images

We need to allow sufficient time for digital images to be collated and previewed by our guest judge.

**\*\*FINAL SUBMISSION DATE – 20 July\*\***

**Please send digital images to Alasdair Noble at [A.D.Noble@massey.ac.nz](mailto:A.D.Noble@massey.ac.nz)**



**Intrepid Five: From Left: Peter Wiles, Terry Crippen, Tony Gates, Martin & Anne Lawrence**

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Intrepid Five, Totara Flats, Rimutaka Incline Bike/Walk, Roaring Stag, D'Urville Island Tramping**

#### **The Intrepid Five Survive the Wilderness 20-25 April By Terry Crippen**

ANZAC weekend saw five intrepid club members undertake a world first (for PNTMC anyhow); venturing into and returning safely from the Ruakituri Wilderness, successfully finding the vanishing Kopuapounamu and obtaining photographic evidence of many hitherto unknown fungi (unknown to the Five that is).

This world first was as a result of the Ruakituri Catchment having been just very

recently gazetted as a Wilderness Area. It is only the second Wilderness Area in the North Island – the Raukumara Wilderness being the other. (An expedition to the Raukumara Wilderness is still on the agenda for some of the Five.)

In order to help maintain the Wilderness aspect of the area visited I will refrain from giving exact location details and waypoints; however the reader may glean from inspection of NZMS 260 W18 the location of the aforementioned vast area of forest covered Tertiary strata. Being made up of mudstone, sandstone and limestone, this

area is quite a bit different to the usual greywacke terrain that the club visits.

Assembling at the local motor camp the night before, a lazy 9am start saw us being shuttled to the start of a certain track. A bit of a grunt at first then a gentler grade had us heading towards the leatherwood top of the highest point in the Urewera National Park, arriving there shortly after lunch to be greeted by a fairly stiff coolish breeze and views of the forested Ureweras, and the Pacific Ocean in the distance. Shortly after, we arrived at the nearby hut where we spent a relaxing afternoon. We checked out the route for the following day, made ample use of the many gigabytes of digital memory available to us, and then headed back to the hut to enjoy the warmth of the fire once the smoke dissipated.



Te Kei Stream Waterfall

The route chosen was to head east for awhile on the marked route to Waikareiti which follows the boundary of the Wilderness Area, then take a NE leading spur dropping down into the Kopuapounamu to hit it just upstream from where it goes underground through a wide band of limestone. Apart from a minor bit of back-tracking at the start, the spur was relatively easily and quickly descended with

the help of old and new technology. Lunch was had on a small sandy beach adjacent to where most of the flow vanishes underground. This is one of only about 3 or 4 possible landing areas for a helicopter in the whole of the Wilderness Area; the rest has almost a continuous cover of beech-podocarp-hardwood forest.

Some gymnastics and pack lowering were needed amongst the limestone blocks and ledges in this section of river bed, but it gave excellent opportunity for some interesting photography. Once through this section we continued downstream along the TR bank, bush travel was again relatively easy. Being this time of the year there were a huge number and range of fungi evident necessitating plenty of photo stops. We noticed very little deer or possum sign hereabouts. A number of Whio were observed. An excellent fly-camp was set up in time for dinner as dusk approached. There was possibly a kiwi calling at night and we had the valley to ourselves.

The next day's objective was to continue down the Kopuapounamu, then head up the Te Kei and into the Pokepepeti for the second night under the fly. Bush travel continued to be relatively easy, but with a bit more fern on the forest floor, and more boggy patches. Pig rooting was quite common here. A short side excursion up the Te Kei past the Pokepepeti was worth the extra effort to check out a 26m waterfall; very impressive even though the streams at this stage up valley don't have large flows. Heading up the Pokepepeti was easy going using the stream bed for travel and we set up camp at the junction of a number of tributaries and the spur we would ascend the following day. The afternoon was spent checking out the spur and some huge podocarps, discovering an old NZFS flycamp site, photographing yet more fungi, and getting a stream-side fire going for the long autumn evening.

Next day was a straightforward ascent up the spur to hit the Manuoha-Waikareiti track and thus exiting the Wilderness Area before heading down to Waikareiti Hut. Much discussion took place regarding staying at this hut since it is classed as a "Great Walk Hut" and places must be booked at \$20 per

person. So I will leave it to the reader to assume what the Five did for the night. We did however borrow a dingy and row across to Rahui Island and check out its small lake. Our rowing ability, on a 1 to 10 scale, ranged from about 3 to 7!

A rainy morning greeted us for our last day. All our gear including the tent flies were dry. (So you can probably guess what our decision was about the hut.) It was a straight forward track-bash along the Waikareiti track down to Waikaremoana, then into Wairoa for freshly backed goodies at the famous bakery and tea rooms, which must have just opened after the local ANZAC Day service. By this stage the rain was bucketing down for the drive back to PN.

The Five: Anne Lawrence, Martin Lawrence, Peter Wiles, Tony Gates, Terry Crippen.

### **Totara Flats 22 April** **By Richard Lockett**

Last time I had this trip on the card there were no takers so got a bit of a surprise when a Rachel Paterson rung up wanting to go. Sused out that she'd done a bit of tramping and used to be Heather Purdie's Flat mate and was assistant guide on Heather's Lost Track trip preamble. OK you can come on my trip. Any medical conditions I should know about, had some knee trouble, well so have I, We'll hobble along well together.

Rachel set the pace as we wound our way up the gentle annie track from Holdsworth car park with morning tea taken sitting atop the rocky lookout admiring the view up the Atiwhakatu catchment, Powell and Jumbo huts, beautiful weather making this possible.

With the grade easing the junction was soon reached and it off down the hill to Totara creek, not fun with crap knees the prospect of a nice lunch after crossing the stream an incentive to keep going. An extra treat being our lunch spot bathed in warm sunlight which ensured that our lunch was not hurried.

Four km's of travel beside the Totara stream brought us to the swing bridge over the Waiohine River, with Rachel being impressed with signage warning of high winds when

crossing said bridge. No worries today being dead calm, most unusual, the wind usually howls down the river gorge and try's to tip you off the bridge, perhaps tomorrow.

On reaching the hut just across the bridge Rachel parked up to rest the knees, where as I continued on down across the grassed flats enjoying the days remaining warm sunlight and calm conditions as on my previous visits conditions have been the opposite. My return to the hut preceded an onslaught of other trampers arriving from the Walls Whare road end ensuring a fullish hut for the night and all the noise that goes with it.

Dinner was cooked using the last of the days natural light with Rachel providing the dessert consisting of chocolate muffins with jam in the middle and organic yogurt, well worth the trip. After an early night and indifferent sleep I was awakened by the sound of rustling plastic bags as others prepared for breakfast. Thinking about it, a plastic bag would make a good instrument of torture much like a dripping tap.

With the promise of another muffin for morning tea a brisk pace was set on return up beside the Totara stream and with more wind coming down the Waiohine a more realistic bridge crossing experience was to be had. On reaching the Totara stream crossing, said muffins were dispatched and then onwards up the hill back to rocky lookout for lunch. The 1km of track from the bottom of the gentle annie to the Atiwhakatu to me always drags on as if its about 4kms in length but only on the return leg, heading out it only seems about 400 meters, strange.

Now ice creams, on the Masterton bypass road the roundabout with the Mobil petrol station there's a dairy which gives away ice cream. For a dollar fifty a single cone but three scoops high too much to eat had to bin half of it. We were Rachel Paterson and Richard Lockett.

### **Rimutaka Incline 14 May** **By Richard Lockett**

A mixed walking and biking trip this time with a weather forecast none to favorable with a

southerly front due to arrive midday but the team were still keen to go. The weather down Masterton way looked very promising clear skies no wind but on arrival at Cross Creek car park we were greeted with dark clouds and a good norwester.

The team consisted of Monica Cantwell, Warren Wheeler who were walking Cross Creek to Kaitoke, Alisdair and Josie Noble who were biking Kaitoke to Cross Creek, Martin Lawrence, Richard Haverkamp, Richard Lockett, who were biking Cross Creek to Kaitoke return.

Sounds complicated but it worked out well with the Noble's dropping me off at Cross Creek then driving to Kaitoke, their vehicle to driven back by Warren and Monica. So Warren and Monica head off on foot while Martin and myself await the arrival of Richard Haverkamp, who was coming in from Kapiti way somewhere and was running a bit late. We were getting a tad cold set off without him only missing him by about ten minutes, Apologies Richard.

I arrived at Cross Creek before Martin and parked at the shelter to remove a layer of clothing and saw him ride past but he hadn't seen me and kept going thinking I'm bloody fit trying to catch me. Where as I'm behind Martin pushing my bike out of breath, didn't see him till we passed as he was returning from Kaitoke. We were getting hit with cold showers at this stage and head winds on the downhill towards Kaitoke where we passed Alasdair and Josie who had a tail wind on their climb towards Summit.

Martin waited for me to catch up on the easy climb back to summit. Warren and Monica were passed 2 km before Summit was reached having lunched at the shelter with Richard Haverkamp who took the option of returning back to Cross Creek after lunch.

On arrival at the Summit shelter we found the Nobles enjoying their lunch so we joined them before the quick trip down hill to Cross Creek. Martin had a trip over the handlebars of his bike on the section of single track between Cross Creek and the car park, which required some first aid to his face but thankfully no lasting damage.

The rain had set in at this stage so we sat in Martins car to await the arrival the Noble's and Monica and Warren from Kaitoke before a well earned coffee and cake in Featherston.

### **D'Urville Island - Tramping Expedition 2-5 June 2006 By John Feeney**

The trip began on a clear and crisp, starry Manawatu night (the first day of winter). Twelve bleary eyed trampers set off in three cars about 10.30pm bound for an adventure in the Marlborough Sounds. The group ready to give up home comforts for three nights of "roughing it" on D'Urville Island.

Our leader Janet, had every aspect well planned. We rendezvoused as expected in Wellington, this odd collection of middle aged folk, (some with bicycles) hanging around the ferry terminal in the wee hours of Friday morning! Fortunately no-one spotted us and we were soon snugly aboard the ferry. The watery crossing was calm and uneventful. Most in the group getting a bit of sleep, although Craig and Ian oddly wondering why they had found it hard to get to sleep in their posse directly below a television set.

#### **Day one**

Arriving at Picton at 5.am we were met by the dedicated staff from Havelock Travel in their 20 seater bus. With luggage and bikes secured, including having two bikes stowed down the centre aisle of the bus we sped off on a three and a quarter hour drive to French Pass. Ian sat up front with the driver maintaining a constant banter ensuring he kept awake at the wheel. The road was very, very, windy. The last stretch of the road just 20km being shingle and windy took the bus an hour to travel! John squirmed a bit about feeling bus sick, Janet un-sympathetically instructed no one was to be sick and so of course none of us were.

French Pass is a narrow and angry passage of water between the tip of the mainland and D'Urville Island. The settlement of French Pass is small with about ten houses a garage and motor-camp. After a bit of waiting around at the wharf, breakfast ( and Martin finding that dog poo can be present in the most out

of the way places) our boat arrived at 10 am to take us and all our associated bags and bikes across to the island. The trip to the Island took about 10 minutes. Long enough for Ian to find out the boatman's life story!

Arriving at the Island we found our well appointed accommodation was just a few minutes from the wharf. The dwelling was a modern two level timber home with an adjacent sleep out. Literally the house contained every modern convenience including a dishwasher, gold fish pond and Television. (TV not working). Not quite the average tramping hut in the Ruahines. After quickly settling in, staking out our beds etc we engaged in one of the many eating sessions for the weekend. The afternoon then became a chance to take advantage of the still fine day to explore the Island.

Warren spotted the Kayaks and was off for a paddle. He was soon back to join Terry, Richard, Ann and Martin for a two hour cycle trip around the lower part of the Island. Graeme was obviously keen to try his luck at fishing with his crew of Yvette and Janet. They rowed a little way out into the nearby bay and within a short time had caught an impressive total of fish. Four blue cod, a barracuda, a red cod and 12 spotties.

That left the rest of us.. John, Ian, Craig and Chris to go for the easy option of a four wheel drive tour of the Island. This proved to be a highlight. In addition to taking in the spectacular scenery...(including a hazy view of Mt Taranaki) we were entertained by Ian and our female driver. She proved to be a fast mover and good match for Ian!

In between the smart comments we found information such as D'Urville Island is a land mass of 40,000 acres with just fifty inhabitants. The same size as lake Taupo. 32,000 of this now belongs to DOC. Like lots of New Zealand it was once cleared extensively and used for framing. Stock is still kept on the northern part of D'Urville. The remainder of the Island has reverted to native bush or is covered in the original bush. There are no possums on the Island and bird life is more common. Seems like there is a problem with too many deer and wild pigs, hunters actively kill these animals.

Activities completed, Graeme got the fire going and we sat around mulling over the day. As seems to be the custom on these kinds of tramps food for the evening meal was prepared and drooled over in a ritualistic fashion. Despite being tired from a very early start we sat down to a feast of ....pre dinner nibbles, wine, blue cod, muscles, various casseroles, (including a vegetarian one), cake, biscuits and coffee. A visit from a local Weka became a part of this evening ritual. Then old age and tiredness caught up and bed time on this first day was an early 7.30pm!



Where's the motorbike Graeme?

### Day two

Despite a forecast of rain (possibly) a fine day greeted us providing a chance to indulge in our plans of continuing to explore D'Urville. Warren was up early gathering a huge bucket of mussels. After a late breakfast we divided into three groups. Warren and Chris choose the Kayak option and used the sea kayaks to travel along part of the D'Urville coast line. They paddled around to the islands café situated in Catherine's Bay. Good bonditions for a novice Kayaks were ideal and by the end of the trip nearly all in our party had ventured onto the water, including Warren and John who braved the water for a quick dip.

Having carted their bike from Palmerston, the bike team were obliged to put them to good use. Richard, Martin, Graeme, Janet, Yvette and Anne were off at a fast pace to circumnavigate Durville, within the limits of the accessible roads they could cover in one day. The pace was quickly slowed by the hilly terrain which unexpectedly seemed to go on

and on. They were rewarded with the experience of being in the bush and some great views of the Marlborough sounds and lower North Island. All went at their own pace covering an impressive 50 kilometres; half of it up hill. Risk management strategies were lacking on the scary down hill stretches but fortunately they encountered only one car. Janet described the trip as a “grunt but a very enjoyable day. Martin proved bike shorts do help with cycling; he managed to cover the entire trip without having to get off his bike and walk up hill.

Sadly for an Island with extensive areas of native bush there are very few actual walking tracks. Keen to have a walk John, Terry, Ian and Craig worked out a circuit they could follow by walking along two roads and then returning via a four wheel drive track. About a five hour walk. Not long into the trek the group were offered a ride by a local in his land rover to the top of the first hill. The ride quickly extended to covering about two thirds of the planned walk. That left an easy down hill walk back to the starting point.. The group did feel a bit guilty but it soon passed. The excuse was the need to get back in time for fishing!

Back about 2pm the three complete novices, Ian, Craig, and Terry headed out for a stint of fishing. Terry with a budget fishing line caught the first fish and was put in charge of killing the fish. Craig with an amateurish line and hook caught the next fish and then Ian with his \$1500 rod finally caught a fish. Obviously the trio quickly worked out how to catch fish and ended up with a tally of 7 blue cod, a barracuda and a close encounter by Ian with a shark.



Greville Harbour

Following this unexpected bounty our evening menu was quickly altered to again include and entree of blue cod. This was in addition to some stunning mussel patties Warren had whipped up. Added to this feast was the planned blend of pre dinner nibbles, alcohol and various “main courses”. Chris surprised us all with a platter of home made bread she had prepared, served with fresh hummus. Does it get any better than this? The classic trick of the night was when John (being helpful) found that the whole dishwasher tips forward when the top and bottom trays are pulled together. Result.. the dish trays slide out, dishes get broken.



Marlborough Sounds

### Day three

The day began with heavy rain and any out side activities became weather dependent. New records were set for sleeping in, with Warren and Terry not getting up until an unbelievable 9.30am. Lazy John stayed in bed till 10.30am. The morning was spent engaging in stimulating conversation, playing games, reading and eating. The house contained lots of reading material varying from self improvement to 101 nights of “Tantra sex”. (Well studied by Graeme). The extended breakfast going into lunch consisted of cereal, toast, bacon and eggs, fresh scones and fresh banana yoghurt loaf. Just as well for the dish washer. Fortunately after all this eating, it did stop raining and we were all able to get out and walk some off some of the excesses. Janet and co went for a brisk 40minute walk up a hill and then also succumbed to getting a ride back to base camp. Ian, Craig and co went for a walk and discovered a walking track across to the next

bay. Graeme and Yvette kayaked around to the same bay.

Having taken advantage of the last chance to kayak, tramp or cycle before departing the next day the last task was to polish off what ever remaining food we could. Ian ably used his farming skills to fillet the remaining blue cod fish. He fried these in a batter made of Speight's beer. Very impressive. This entrée was augmented with nibbles of nuts, chips and crackers and dips and assorted left overs. "Amazing what comes out of some peoples packs" Janet commented. We had definitely over catered (and over eaten) for a three night tramp. Deciding to skip any "main courses" we went straight for a succulent desert of apple crumble and custard Chris and Anne had prepared. This great day of "chilling out" finished with another visit from the Weka and more stimulating conversation.

### Back Home Again

Morning came around quickly. Ian had us all (except for Yvette) up by 6am. Another casual breakfast and then we all contributed

to cleaning the house and were ready with our gear packed by 8am. The weather forecast predicting stormy seas in Cook Strait we wondered if we would all be seasick. The three and a half hour bus trip back to Picton went smoothly with clear skies and frequent views across the sounds. "Sea leg pills" at the ready we found the incoming ferry had indeed been delayed by a stormy crossing. There was talk of very big waves!

However onboard the new huge ferry it did get a bit rough at times but nothing our stomachs couldn't handle... (just as well none of us had any ginger!) We were all safely back in Palmerston about 8pm. Memories relaxing days spent in a special place, not a lot of people get to. Thanks to Janet again for taking care of all the details and ensuring the trip was so successful.

We were...Martin and Anne Lawrence, Yvette Cottam, Graeme Peters, Janet Wilson, John Feeney, Ian Harding, Chris Cheyne, Terry Crippen, Richard Lockett, Warren Wheeler and Craig Allerby.



D'Urville Island trampers

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