



# Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

## Newsletter May 2009

### Club Nights

Club nights are held at 7:45pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North. All welcome! Please sign the visitor's book at the door.

#### 14 May

##### What's Up Doc?

Jason Roxburgh, the new area manager for the Department of Conservation, will give us a presentation on some of the important issues and current projects they are working on.

#### 28 May

##### BYO Slides

Your opportunity to show us highlights of trips you have been on over the Summer. Bring your own pics on CD or memory stick for Warren to load into the Club laptop between 7.45 and 8.00pm. Please try and limit your selection to 12 images.

### Trip Notes

#### Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trumper should be expected to do the trips in the following times:

Easy (E):	3-4 hrs
Medium (M):	5-6 hrs
Fit (F):	about 8 hrs
Fitness Essential (FE):	over 8 hrs
Other grades:	Technical skills (T) Instructional (I)

#### Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Countdown car park. A charge for transport will be collected on the day.

#### 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

#### Note to partners, parents or friends of members:

If a club trip is late returning, please do not worry unduly as there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone one of the Overdue Trip Contacts:

Mick Leyland	358-3183
Terry Crippen	356-3588
Janet Wilson	329-4722

### Upcoming Trips

Note that there have been a number of changes to dates for the trips since the trip card was printed.

#### 2-3 May

##### Mangahao Flats

M

##### Warren Wheeler

356 1998

Depart 8.00am. We drive to the end of the winding Mangahao Dams access road behind Shannon. Yes, this is prime Tararua country. We follow the DoC track from the upper dam carpark with a short cut up the river to the swingbridge if flows allow. We continue along the track, which is a bit up and down as it sidles along above the Mangahao River for about 4 hours to the Mangahao Flats Hut. The larger streams are now bridged so getting there and back is not weather dependent. We will return the same way with some variation if river conditions allow.

#### 2 May

##### Te Araroa Walkway

E

##### Peter Wiles

Note the change of date from the Sunday to the Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. We will leave at 8am. It is an easy day trip on a good gentle track.

#### 10 May

##### Iron Gates Hut

M

##### Craig Allerby

323 7913

Depart 7.30 from Countdown. From the Oroua River Valley car park in the NW Ruahines we will travel along the undulating track that follows the Oroua River to a great little backcountry hut. We will stop

for lunch at the hut and then return out the same way with maybe a coffee stop at Kimbolton.

#### 9-10 May

**South West Tararua Circuit** M  
**Janet Wilson** 329 4722

Postponed until the next events card.

#### 16-17 May

**Caving Waitomo** M  
**Graham Peters** 329 4722

How can one make such a ridiculous pastime as caving sound at all attractive? It's not possible. Anyway, the trip is the chance to visit a couple of the classic non tourist caves in the Waitomo area. We'll be travelling up Friday evening and staying in the comfortable but downmarket Hamilton Tomo Group Lodge, returning Sunday afternoon.

#### 17 May

**Field Hut (Note change from trip card)** E/M  
**Malcolm Parker** 357 5203

Depart Palmerston North at 7.00 am for Otaki Forks. Expect a leisurely dawdle up to Field Hut on the edge of the Tararuas for an early lunch. Return the same way and grab a coffee in Otaki on the way home. (Malcolm had to change this trip – he had planned to go to Atiwhakatu but the area is closed while a new hut is built.)

#### 23-24 May

**Mid-Pohangina Hut** E/M  
**Richard Lockett** 323 0948

Leaving countdown 8 am. An overnight visit to one of the classic Ruahine forest service huts. It takes about 4 to 5 hours relatively easy walking to get up the Pohangina River sidle track. In Richard's words this is "Easy as".

#### 24 May

**Farm Walk** E/M  
**Malcolm Leary** 06 322 8533

A Hunterville hill country walk. We will head out west of Hunterville and keep to the ridges as much as possible to avoid the mud and get the best views. Contact Malcolm for more information.

#### 29 May- 2 June

**Queens Birthday Weekend**  
**Janet's Coastal Classic**  
**Janet Wilson** 329 4722

A four day trip to picturesque Mistletoe Bay in the Queen Charlotte, near Picton. Exact details to be confirmed shortly but leaving probably on the Friday 29/5 (possibly Saturday) returning on the Monday or Tuesday. Costs should be \$250-\$300 depending on numbers and ferry costs. Please let Janet know asap if you are interested as she needs to confirm numbers for accommodation very soon. Activities include walking, mountain biking (byob), fishing and swimming for the brave.

#### 30 May (Sat)

**Sunrise Hut** E  
**John Feeney** 354 2940

For those not already going away at Queens Birthday come and join us for this classic day trip in Central Hawkes Bay. Depending on the weather we could venture on beyond the hut for some of the interesting views around the Ruahines. Phone John for more details.

#### 6-7 June

**Forks Hut** E  
**Mick Leyland** 358 3183

You will need to contact Mick directly to prise information from him about this trip.

#### 7 June

**Maharahara Trig** M  
**Tony Gates** 357 7439

Maharahara Trig is a close and pleasant Ruahine day tramp. Departing from PN at 8.00am should give us time to reach the summit for lunch. If transport can be arranged on the day, we can cross from the Pohangina to the Dannevirke side.

#### Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to Anne Lawrence email: [dahlia44@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dahlia44@xtra.co.nz) or post 44 Dahlia St, PN.

## Notices

#### Congratulations

Club members, Janet Maessen and Peter Darragh were married on Anzac Day. Congratulations!

#### New Club Members

A warm welcome to new members:  
Woody Lee 357 2390

292 Park Rd, PN  
[happytogether4@xtra.co.nz](mailto:happytogether4@xtra.co.nz)

Geoffrey & Rochelle Beaumont 354 4929  
23 Epsom Rd, PN

[geoff-rock@xtra.co.nz](mailto:geoff-rock@xtra.co.nz)

#### SUBS for 2009 are now due

Thanks to those who have already paid their subs. If you want an FMC membership card, you need to pay your PNTMC subscription before 21 May. Any subs coming in after that may miss on their FMC membership card.

Please pay at the next Club night or send payment to:  
Martin Lawrence  
Treasurer PNTMC  
PO Box 1217, PN

## **Snowcraft Programme 2009 - Preliminary notice**

It's time to be thinking about SNOW and alpine skills seeing it's now autumn. PNTMC's comprehensive Snowcraft Programme (three weekends up the mountains and three Tuesday night seasons) gets underway at the start of August. For dates, costs and full info check out the Snowcraft link on the Club's website [www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz), or wait till the June newsletter. If you are interested in going on any or all of our snowcraft courses, contact Terry (3563-588) or Bruce (328-4761). Likewise pass the word round to friends who could be interested.

## **Trip card for the second half of 2009**

Planning for the trip card for July through to December 2009 is underway. Have a think about what trips you would like to suggest and/or lead and contact Janet Wilson on 329 4722.

## **Mountain Safety Council courses**

MSC is running a number of courses in the Manawatu this year.

- **Full Outdoor First Aid** - \$120

There are three full outdoor first aid courses running in the evenings:

27 – 29 March

10 – 12 July

2 – 4 October

- **OFA Revalidation** - \$60

10 May

2 August

1 November

- **Risk Management** - \$90

Date to be confirmed

- **River Safety Day** - \$35

29 November

Further information from

MSC

PO Box 601, PN

Phone 354 6369

[manawatu@mountainsafety.org.nz](mailto:manawatu@mountainsafety.org.nz)

## **Distress beacons**

Last newsletter contained information about hiring out Personal Locator Beacons. Malcolm Parker reports that he has hired PLBs for \$5 a day from Mark Miller. Mark is based in Pohangina and can be contacted on 329 4059.

## **Environmental Film Festival**

The Reel Earth Environmental Film Festival is being held here in Palmerston North May 16 - 30. Go to [www.reearth.org.nz/](http://www.reearth.org.nz/) to find out about the amazing range of films covering a diverse range of environmental themes being presented during the festival. Below is information about one of the films that may be of interest to PNTMC members.

### **TARA - Journey to the Heart of the Climate Machine**

**6 pm Sunday 17 May at Downtown**

This is an extraordinary tale of 8 men on a scientific mission to gather data crucial for understanding climate change. Expedition leader, New Zealander Grant Redvers, will introduce the film's Australasian premiere here at Reel Earth, bringing you the chance to hear it first hand from the Kiwi adventurer who is rapidly writing his name into the history of polar exploration, discovery, and challenge.

Filmed under the most extreme conditions, 'TARA' brings you inside the drama as these eight adventurers drift for 16 months, purposely trapped in the icy clutch of the polar north. Called the TARA Polar Drift Expedition, their purpose was to observe the air, ice, and ocean, and establish a web of oceanographic beacons during the International Polar Year (2006-2008). All that, and survive! Their measurements will help to determine if perennial polar ice is in the process of disappearing, and if so, why.

During the expedition, TARA (formerly Sir Peter Blake's 'Seamaster', now refitted for polar travel) was trapped in ice and drifted more than 4000km across the North Pole, from the north of Siberia to the Fram Strait between Greenland and Spitzbergen.

After the session, you will have the opportunity to meet Grant Redvers. Grant will also be present at the gala opening of Reel Earth's 5<sup>th</sup> Season, 16 May at the Regent on Broadway.

## **Trip Reports**

### **Tongariro South Ridge**

**21 March**

**Report and pics: Janet Wilson**

We got away from our rendezvous point in Ashhurst around 6.30 am and by 9.30 had squeezed the car into the very limited parking area left at the Mangatepopo Rd end and were ready to start walking. It was a fine, clear, blue sky morning with a cool easterly wind and it was one of those very busy days on the Tongariro crossing. Even at this relatively late hour, there were

still many people arriving in shuttles and private cars. We had some clear track for a short while but soon were mingling with the masses. We stayed with them (and passed most) on the way up the new super flash track to the saddle from where our route branched off the main track. We stopped here for a short break and as it was Woody's first walk in the area, we acted as tour guides and pointed out all the places of interest. Then it was onwards and upwards. The ridge turned out to be an interesting but not difficult scramble. Bruce, who had been there plenty of times before, knew all the tricks when the route became less obvious and in no time at all, we were at the top.



Graham – Tongariro South Ridge

Here we met up with other people doing the side trip from the crossing, and those who had seen our approach to the top sounded most impressed at our route - it must have looked rather interesting from their direction. We had our lunch tucked down out of the wind. The clouds were gathering and after not too long we dropped off the top towards the west. This is the quick way down - down a scree run, followed by a roughly defined track that eventually drops you back into the valley, about 15 minutes up from the Mangatepopo Hut. We called in here for a quick break and then were soon back at the car - I believe a record circuit time for Bruce. Home in time for dinner!

Those who enjoyed an interesting day out with good company - I'm looking forward to trying some Korean food, Woody - were *Bruce van Brunt (Leader)*, *Woody Lee*, *Graham Peters* and *Janet Wilson*.



Graham, Woody and Bruce

## Umukarikari, Waipakihi Hut, Urchin and the Kaimanawas

21-22 March

Report: Murray Gifford

Photos: Chris Tuffley

### Day One:

We were a party of four. Chris picked us up at 7.30am and on to Fielding for Richard. We had a brief stop on Kaimanawa Rd to view the Waikato falls and peer over to the tailrace outfall structure. By 10.30 am we were on our way and a steepish track gets the blood going as we climbed up thru the beech forest, red, silver and finally mountain beech. Chris had a geocache to find early en route. The track is easier as we get higher, over a few high points in the ridge, finally reaching the open tops at about 1100m. No leatherwood here and the tops were rocky with only low and sparse vegetation, similar to the Ruahine tops but no speargrass, so easy travel. The track across the tops is fully poled. We dropped into a small saddle and on up to Sharp Cone with grand views of Turangi to Taupo.

We stopped for lunch after about 2 hrs on the trail, the day warm and calm, blue skies mostly. Umukarikari at 1370m rose up to the northeast with a steep gut between the two high points. The track skirted around to the south and we were quickly on the top for fine views of the Kaimanawas to the east, Urchin to the south and over the Desert Rd to Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe. A track leads off to the south and makes a direct link (not on the map) with Urchin via the ridge. We stopped for photos at the top and pondered the

route NE, but the track ahead is somewhat obscured by the ridge ahead and where we were headed was not obvious. Fast travel now along the tops and as we headed down the ridge which turned to the north and looked much more like the map was telling us. A photo stop to capture the dark clouds forming to the south and east; interesting light for that special shot, a brief rainbow ahead, the wind getting up a little. One hour along the ridge gave us our first views of the hut, way down the ridge and nestled in the head of the Waipakihi valley. A steep descent down through the mountain beech took us to forks in the Waipakihi stream. The valley was filled with bronze tussocks, a nice afternoon spot.



It was only 10 minutes up to the hut, basking in the afternoon sun. The hut was empty but clean and tidy, the fireplace with coal and wood. Time for a brew and relax - a great place to spend a lazy day in summer. A few of us went back to the stream for a wash, bath the feet, which were sore after 5 hours walk to the hut. Later in the afternoon we were joined by two Germans and a Brazilian, doing much the same as us.

Day Two:

A leisurely start, on the trail by 8.30am and a sign post indicating the river route and out over Urchin was 8 to 10 hours. The river was narrow and rocky to start, not long before we had wet feet, but easy crossings in the low water. Boulder hopping was the way for the first two hours, slowly the valley widened and a few flats



afforded faster travel. The flats were all tall bronze tussocks, just beautiful in the warm morning sun. We all agreed this to be fine deer hunting country. The river had plenty of fine deep pools and camping spots, a great place for lazy day. We walked onwards and down stream, 4.5 hours, 2km /hr travel on average and Urchin finally rose up to our right, we just had to find the track entrance. This was well marked and the GPS confirmed our proximity to the track. We stopped just downstream for lunch, a smallish pool, better to stop upstream in the deeper blue pools. Three of us had a swim and refresh in the cold waters.

The track climbs steeply again and within the hour we were back on the tops. Urchin is way off to the south west and we stopped early for photos and a chocolate fix. The ridge is easy going again and soon we were on top of Urchin for our last views of our route over the weekend, the Kaimanawa's and TNP. A short steep decent back into the bush and 1 hour to the track end via a well-graded and leafy track, down thru the beech, fast and easy going.



It was about 2½ hours up and over the tops to the exit, so we were at the road end by 4.00pm. The track end is almost directly above the Rangipo underground power station and the vent shaft to the headrace tunnel is just a minute away. Chris volunteered to retrieve the car, 5km down a dirt road. He made great time and we were all headed for home by 5.00pm. All in all, a great weekend - excellent weather, the tops easy, the river glorious!

*We were Chris Tuffley (leader) Kelly Buckle, Richard Lockhart and Murray Gifford.*

## Orongorongo Weekend

28- 29 March

Report and photo: Tony Gates

The Rimutaka Forest Park lies close to Wellington, with good foot and vehicle access to the many private huts there. Our autumn tramp was during a vehicle weekend, so the valley was sometimes noisy. Add to that a mountain bike race, great weather, and dozens of picnickers and you get the idea - a fairly crowded place in the bush. But you can escape the crowds, as we did, to the delightful bush haven of "Shalimar".

From the Catchpool, an easy hour's tramp led us to the Orongorongo river, where we started visiting a few of the other bush residents. Barbara Marshall, known from FMC, was at Waeranga with a cuppa coffee for us. This hut, owned by the Tararua Tramping Club, had been threatened by erosion from a flooded side creek. They brought in a bulldozer, put the hut on wheels, and towed it to a somewhat safer location. Another easy hour upriver (naturally with wet feet) took us to Shalimar, owned by the Gates family. We lounged about the hut lawn and passed a relaxing afternoon with one or two visitors. The hut was reasonably luxurious.



Photo: Shalimar, Orongorongo Valley.

Sunday was another really nice autumn day. We lounged about for a bit more drinking tea, then I ran back down the valley to observe and photograph "The Screaming O". This is a mega mountain bike race of about 25 kilometres, which looked like tough fun and fairly dangerous descending the narrow track at speed.

We wandered out the Orongorongo track early afternoon, Marilyn in her jandals. A cooling forest breeze, then some damp areas of tawa forest near the Catchpool stream, cooled us off on such a nice day. Despite a nice weekend, it was good to get home early.

*We were; Marilyn Oday, Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, Tony Gates, Terry Crippen, and Warren Wheeler.*

## Easter Bunnies in the Arrowsmiths

9-13 April

Report and photos: Terry Crippen

The plan for this Easter trip was to attempt Mt Arrowsmith (2781m) from the Cameron Valley and with the weather forecast being excellent sunny weather the chances of a successful climb looked good. However as Terry, Nigel and Katrina headed down to Wellington on Thursday afternoon to meet up with Peter and cross on the ferry, the big dump of snow we saw on the Tararuas suggested we might be in for some hard work. Crossing on the ferry one of us remembered that they owned a house in Kaikoura, so that made for a comfortable nights sleep rather than a roadside snooze somewhere. Meeting up with Hinrich and Julie at Christchurch airport we then headed towards Lake Heron and the Cameron road end. Fortunately there wasn't much evidence of many others up valley so we quickly got rid of tents to lighten our load.

Travel up the Cameron was generally uneventful following the marked route that keeps to the TR. However some slack route finding by (he shall remain nameless but was the only one of us who had been there before) meant we spent some unwanted time crossing the last stream too early and grovelling round in scrub and rock covered in snow. We eventually got back on route and made it to the hut after dark, with the help of the occasional pole, snow covered cairns and footsteps of the hut's only other resident.

Saturday morning with a 5am wake up saw us heading up the Cameron by headlamp and torchlight. The soft unconsolidated snow cover got deeper and taking turns at step plugging became the order of the morning. We eventually got to the big bend in the Cameron Glacier with about 50cm or more snow masking rocks, ice and holes. Coupled to this would be the avalanche risk on the South Cameron Glacier.



View down valley from Cameron glacier

So after much consensus discussion it was decided to abandon the attempt of Mt Arrowsmith itself and

head back down to the hut and do an afternoon scramble elsewhere after lunch. Of course once eating up at large and relaxing at the hut no afternoon scramble took place. We did decide however that the next day we would attempt The Marquee (2421m) via the long south ridge, which although still a mix of rock and fresh loose snow would not present the problems encountered for Arrowsmith.

On Sunday another 5am wakeup, a 6:15 am departure, and leaving Peter to look after a pinched nerve, five of us headed across to the 700m grunt up the spur to put us onto the start of the ridge. The snow cover at least made the scree easier to ascend. Once on the spur it was slow but steady progress for the next one and a half kms, with Hinrich being chief snow plugger and tester of the rock holds. A couple of roped pitches and some running belays were necessary because of the snow cover, but otherwise it was steady scrambling. Leaving one of the party members just before pt. 2346m to concentrate on the scenery, the remaining four humans and (unbeknown to me) the two Easter bunnies did a final spurt on and up to the summit reaching the top at 3pm – which we had decided shortly before should be our turn round time. The Easter Bunnies then spent a bit of time admiring the views before getting eaten.



Easter Bunny, Nigel and Terry on summit of The Marquee

As expected the descent was going to run out of daylight, however the conditions were excellent, no wind and soon the moon was up. Peter had some candles going on the window ledge as beacons and had prepared pre-dinner nibbles to delight all taste buds. Plus the hut and the toilet were now clean and tidy.

Our last day was going to be a long one for those of us driving all the way back so a relatively early start was undertaken on the Monday. This time following the route down valley was easier, although some of us attempted to battle with the Matagouri at one point. The two vehicles headed in different directions once we got to Mt Sommers; Julie and Hinrich direct to Christchurch airport, while the other four drove north. Coffee and toasted sammies at Staverly, huge ice

creams at Amberley, fish and chips at Kaikoura. Almost running out of time for the ferry we didn't even have to turn the motor off! Loading had almost finished. We were the last vehicle onto the ferry! Getting into Wellington about 1:30am on Tues morning wasn't too tiring for Peter, but the other three of us got back to P North about 3:30am.

An excellent combined Wellington Section NZAC and PNTMC trip. Thank you Peter our organizer and leader.

*We were Peter Shanahan, Nigel Scott, Julie Deslippe, Katrina Hughes, Hinrich Schaefer, Terry Crippen (scribe).*

## AGM

The AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> March was well attended - perhaps people were drawn by the chocolate cake extravaganza. Committee members went all out in their efforts to bake the best chocolate cake, including two people who had never baked a chocolate cake before. Everyone present on the night sampled the cakes, commented on their strengths and weaknesses and voted on their favourite. The outcome was a draw with four very different cakes sharing the award of the most popular cake on the night. Comments included:

Cake A (Anne's): Mmm, mmmmm; slips down well; worth eating two bits for the delicious taste; not very structurally sound; icing would melt when tramping (Demerit point).

Cake B (Terry's): wholesome tasting; structurally sound; good to take tramping; no icing to melt when tramping; lovely tramping cake with crispy top; different in a good way; the chocolate cake you have when you're not having chocolate cake.

Cake C (Dave's): looks great but doesn't deliver; great texture and flavour; lovely texture; very velvety; good gooey icing; icing will melt on tramps in hot weather; good cake, shame about the icing!

Cake D (Penny's): very interesting; not a cake, more of a slice but bloody great; would love to eat the lot (I ate 2 bits)... it was hard to move on (oops now 3 bits.... mmm); solid, suitable for tramping; would collapse on hot tramp days; recipe in the newsletter please.

Cake E (Graham's): Light, good volume; great presentation; icing a little crunchy; nice but too chocolaty; don't need the extra chocolate layer; a weak layer, wouldn't stand up to a tramp; light on the palate; experiential.

Cake F (Tony's): Good for breakfast all the way through to dinner; sustaining; nice chocolate bread – very good!; unusual combination of the yeast with chocolate; a pretender; phoney – not a chocolate cake; very good for tramping though on hot days too melty; my piece had hardly any chocolate – excellent bread though; well done for thinking outside the square.

Cake G: (Penny's second one): Good old fashioned chocolate cake; ideal with Guinness; icing would melt on tramp; not structurally sound for tramping; excellent texture and fluffiness; authentic flavour of chocolate; liked the icing; would like to have it for afternoon tea.

Thanks to all the chefs and congratulations to the four who baked the winning cakes - cakes A, C, D and E shared first place. We aim to include recipes for the prize winning cakes in the newsletter over the next few months.

Dave was a little embarrassed to share the recipe for Cake C but it is clearly a successful one - here it is:

#### **Dave's first ever chocolate cake**

Purchase one packet of Edmonds Chocolate Cake mixture. Follow directions on the back of the packet.

Alongside the cake judging, we had a demonstration from Warren of cake baking. Warren followed a mountaineering theme with his creation of Mount Doom cake – despite its volcanic theme, it proved to be very popular and none was left by the end of the evening. Watch for the recipe in the next newsletter.

### **President's Report for the year ending March 2009**

**From: Bruce van Brunt,  
President PNTMC  
25 March 2009.**

#### **Prolegomena**

The rôle of our club is to provide a platform whereby like minded people can meet and participate in tramping and climbing related activities. Among other things, we strive to introduce people to new outdoor experiences and, above all, we hope that somehow in all this we have a lot of fun.

The success of our club during a given year can thus be measured in part by our activities, and it is on these outward signs that I focus. It is my pleasure to present the 43<sup>rd</sup> President's report.

#### **Membership**

Last year we embarked with 60 members. This year we have welcomed 5 new members and lost 3. Sadly, we note that members Andrew Lynch and Monica Cantwell passed away this year. They gave much to the club and will be missed.

Our membership is in equilibrium.

#### **Activities**

- **Club Evenings**

We had a wide variety of talks from members and guests. We got a taste of walking in Spanish mountains, trekking in Mongolia, hiking in the Sierra Nevada range, and climbing in legendary Yosemite. We travelled from Mt Irene in Fjordland to Cape Reinga with visits to Mt Cook, the Garden of Eden, the Godley Valley, and the Paparoa range. We also saw what an accountant can do in a year, which in itself was a micro tour of New Zealand climbing venues.

Members also enjoyed other social activities including two BBQ's, a BYO slide night, and an interclub quiz. We took a literary turn with a Bush Poetry reading and a backcountry literature reading.

The club held its annual photo competition, which was well subscribed. We were fortunate to have Udo von Mulert as a judge. Thanks for all your efforts Udo. We made a good splash later at the interclub photo competition.

Thanks are given to all the speakers and organizers of these nights. It is surely a good sign that we can consistently field such a spectrum of social activities.

- **Club Trips**

A considerable suite of tramps/climbs was offered to cater to the diverse interests of members. Activities included a visit to the windmills, farm walks, long and short trips in the Ruahine and Tararua ranges, climbing trips in Tongariro and Egmont National Parks, and visits to Cape Kidnappers, Sommes Island and Hokio beach. South Island trips on offer included Arapawa Island, the Richmond Range, and Tapuae-o-Uenuku (Tappy). Of the trips offered, 26% did not go, owing primarily to poor weather. The day trips suffered a 28% attrition; the overnight trips suffered a 22% attrition. The most popular day trip was Makairo (12); the most popular overnight trip was Te Puia Springs (8).

Given our proximity to the Ruahine and the Tararua ranges it should occasion little surprise that these locations dominate our trip cards. Of the trips that did go, 25% were in the Ruahines and 24% were in the Tararuas. Some of these trips were standard favourites such as Tunipo and Maharahara; some went to lesser frequented places. There were trips that perhaps appealed only to the connoisseur: my favourite is "Mick's Bush Bash", which unfortunately did not go. There was also considerable activity in Tongariro and Egmont National Parks including climbing trips to Ruapehu, Tongariro, and Egmont.

The hills are alive with PNTMC members. We are a very active club. Thanks are due to all the trip leaders, who made these trips possible. Special thanks are due to Janet Wilson, who organized the trip card. It is no small feat to gather trip leaders and craft a trip programme that balances easy, moderate, fit trips along with day and overnight trips.

- **Instruction**

A key role of the club is to teach people tramping and climbing skills. This year we held three Snowcraft courses. Each course entailed a weekend trip to a mountain supplemented by an evening session in Palmerston North. Snowcraft 1 and 2 were held on Ruapehu; Snowcraft 3 was held on Egmont. This year the club initiated a course on Alpine Rock, which consisted of a day at Middle Earth in Tongariro National Park. These courses required considerable planning, organization and effort on the part of the leaders. Thanks to Terry Crippen and Alasdair Noble, they were a success. The club also had a leadership evening session, thanks to Chris Tuffley and Mike Archer, and a navigation lesson, thanks to Warren Wheeler.

- **Other Trips**

There are many non club trips that members did throughout the year. One can get a “pulse” of how active a club is by such activities. Each year Terry Crippen compiles a “Who Has Done What” list partially to record what members are doing and partially to serve as a reference for people venturing into similar areas. Overseas highlights include trips to Mongolia and Korea. NZ highlights include an ascent of Mt Aspiring, Scott’s Knob, Grey Peak and other peaks in the Southern Alps. I look forward to reading the full list when it is finished in the near future and thank Terry for all his efforts in compiling this list.

- **Training**

The training of members has always been important. The club recognizes the need for outside expertise and, where possible, strives to subsidize training. This year was no exception.

Two major training projects came to a close this year. These projects were funded largely by grants from the Eastern and Central Community Trust. The help of the Trust is gratefully acknowledged.

The first project concerned First Aid training. At the close of this 2 year project, 11 members received certificates in First Aid from the Mountain Safety Council. The club subsidized nine of these members with funds from the Trust. In most cases, the members paid 50% of the costs and club paid the balance. Two members managed to get the course funded from outside sources.

The second project was an alpine skills refresher course for 3 Snowcraft instructors. This course was custom designed for PNTMC, and took place on Fox Glacier under the alpine guide Dave McKinley. The club contributed \$500-00 to this project, the Trust provided \$3000-00, and the participants paid the balance.

In addition to these courses, two members went on an FMC Leadership Workshop.

- **Newsletter**

Members might have noticed that the newsletter and trip cards got minor facelifts this year. The changes were made to make these documents easier to read both in the B&W print version and in the electronic colour version.

The newsletter has been consistently an interesting and enjoyable read. It is filled not only with news about upcoming events and past trips, but it often contains snippets from the tramping world, the occasional poem and even a recipe or two for tramping food. A big thank you goes to the newsletter editor, Anne Lawrence. Thanks are also given to all the contributors for making this such a success.

- **Website**

The PNTMC website is becoming ever more the “public face” of the club and a valuable resource for members. Our website is one of the better designed tramping club sites in New Zealand. Other clubs have enquired about the website and how they might copy it: this is surely evidence of a quality site. The number of hits on the website this year alone was over 4500. It is of interest to note that the over 1000 newsletters were downloaded this year and over 2000 since they became available in June 2007.

The construction, maintenance and updating of this site is largely the effort of the webmaster Peter Wiles. We owe him a big thank you for all of this hard work putting PNTMC on the cyber map.

- **Equipment and Gear**

The club has been upgrading and modernizing its gear collection over the last 12 years. This year we did not make any major purchases. Our current collection of equipment is adequate for our courses and hopefully for the members. An eye, however, must be kept on replacing items as they wear out. Mick Leyland has stored and distributed this equipment for years. Thanks Mick.

- **Community and Outside Activities**

Several of our members engaged in activities related to tramping that helped the community and other clubs. Through their efforts the profile of our club was raised. These outside activities indirectly help the

club secure funds from grant bodies such as the Eastern and Central Community Trust.

I would like to first note that 22% of our membership is involved with SAR. We have some 14 members currently on the SAR list available for callouts. This year was not as busy as other years, but these people did have a number of callouts. Perhaps the most notable event was the involvement of 4 members in a search for a missing tramp.

Members have been involved in Duke of Edinburgh endeavours and the Lido summer programme Gorge walk. We have also helped with DoC's stoat control programme.

Anja Scholz has been helping DoC as a hut warden for several months now. Much of this was done on a volunteer basis.

The indefatigable Terry Crippen has been heavily involved with alpine instruction for the Wellington section of the NZAC. He helped with all of their courses this year and somehow found time to help with all of ours. Both clubs benefited.

Thanks to everybody for these wonderful contributions.

#### Acknowledgements

We all know that it is the members of a club that makes it what it is. Our success this year is due the efforts of the members. It is to them that I give thanks first.

Few confuse administration as a fun and glamorous task. Nonetheless, this work needs to be done to ensure a smooth running club. The committee has been instrumental in the operation of the club. I gratefully acknowledge the enormous help given to me by all the members of the committee: thank you Warren, Terry, Mick, Anja, Dave, Tony, Martin, Anne and Penelope. Thanks also are given to the club archivist, Peter Wiles.

### Of interest...

#### Kaweka Challenge 2009

Report and pic: **Tony Gates**

This popular mountain running race celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> event 28 February- 1 March 2009. Shocking weather during the Saturday gave wind, rain, mist, and mud along the Kaweka Range, and a few enforced route changes. There were a couple of mild hypothermia cases, well treated by DoC staff and race marshalls. One lost team sat tight in a sheltered possie, then were picked up by the SAR helicopter Sunday morning fit and well. The McIntosh Spur descent had some amazing muddie patches. Camping at McIntosh Hut

in the rain kept everyone in their tents, only to emerge when the rain eased. Sunday's course was in good weather, but still with the well stirred mud.



PNTMC Club members participating this year were: Grant Christian (Course 4 men's vet winner), Janet Wilson and Yvette Cottam (Course 4 women vet winner's), and Tony Gates.

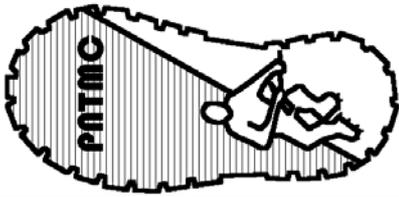
#### The Who Did What List for the 2008 - 2009 year (April 08 to March 09) Compiled by Terry Crippen

The next page shows the list of some of what club members have been up to for the last 12 months; tramping, climbing and other related activities in NZ and overseas. It uses the same approach as previous years: ie excludes our regular local tramps and climbs (Ruahines, Tararuas, Ruapehu, etc) concentrating on further afield areas, but includes both club trips and private trips involving club members and ex Club members. Note that it only includes club members and ex Club member's names, so a single name doesn't necessarily imply it was a solo trip. The list is biased being based on what I have gleaned from others so apologies if I have missed out some epics or great adventures. The intention of the list is firstly to inspire others to do something more demanding or go somewhere different, and secondly to be a list of contacts to quiz for information.

Contact Terry for a cumulative list from April 2000 which is available as a spreadsheet, so it can be searched on trip etc.

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>TRIP</b>	<b>ASCENTS</b>	<b>CLUB Members &amp; ex Members (non club members not listed)</b>
April-July	2008	France, Spain	Camino de Santiago	Margaret Riorden
May	2008	Mongolia	Bogdkhan Uul	Terry Crippen
May	2008	Mongolia	Khoridol Saridag Nuruu	Ikh Uul Terry Crippen
May	2008	Arthurs Pass NP, Lake Sumner FP	Minchin, Taramakau, Hurunui Valleys, Libretto Ra	Peter van Essen
June	2008	Marlborough Sounds	Arapawa Is	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, Warren Wheeler, Anja Scholz, Craig Allerby
June	2008	Australia	Wilpina Pound, Flinders Ra SA	Terry Crippen, Christine Cheyne
June	2008	Stewart Island	NW Circuit	Anglem Peter van Essen
July	2008	Argentina	Rio Limay, Patagonia; rafting	Tony Gates
August	2008	Norway	Etne-Sauda Fjellene Ra & Hardangervidda NP	Warren Wheeler, Kristina Mattsson
September	2008	Bolivia		Huayn Potosi Tim Kanniegeiter, Barbra Cohen
September	2008	China, Tibet		Richard Lockett
October	2008	Korea	Jeju Island	Mt Holla Bruce van Brunt
October	2008	Mt Richmond FP	Timms Valley, Richmond Ra	Richmond, Fell Anne & Martin Lawrence, Murray Gifford, Terry Crippen, Tina Bishop, Tony Gates
November	2008	Mt Aspiring NP	Bonar Glacier	Aspiring Mike Archer
November	2008	Mohaka River	rafting	Tony Gates
November	2008	Motu River	rafting	Tony Gates
November	2008	Wellington	Matiu/Somes Is	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, Warren Wheeler, Richard Lockett
December	2008	Aoraki/Mt Cook NP	day trips	Olivier, Wakefield Chris Saunders, Bruce van Brunt
December	2008	Arthurs Pass NP	day trips	Bealy, Avalanche Penny Abercrombie, Bruce van Brunt
December	2008	Nelson Lakes NP	Matakitaki Valley	Una Terry Crippen
December	2008	Tongiriro NP	Hut warden; volunteer	Anja Scholz
December	2008	Otago	Otago Rail Trail; cycle	Murray Gifford
January	2009	Kahurangi NP	Tablelands, Karamea Valley	Tony Gates
January	2009	Mt Aspiring NP	Wilkin, Siberia, Young Valleys	Terry Crippen, Peter Wiles
January	2009	Arthurs Pass NP	Edwards Valley	Bruce van Brunt, Terry Crippen
January	2009	Arthurs Pass NP	day trips	Aicken, Dome Bruce van Brunt, Clive Marsh
February	2009	Westland NP	Fox Neve	Grey Alasdair Noble, Terry Crippen, Bruce van Brunt
February	2009	Westland NP	Fox & Franz; day walks	Alasdair Noble, Terry Crippen, Bruce van Brunt
February	2009	Letham Conservation Area	Branch, Scott Valleys	Scotts Knob Terry Crippen, Bruce van Brunt, Alasdair Noble
February	2009	Aoraki/Mt Cook NP	Hooker, Tasman Valleys	Mike Archer
February	2009	Canterbury High Country	Rangitata, Havelock Valleys	Mike Archer
February	2009	Otago	Otago Rail Trail; cycle	Christine Cheyne
February	2009	Fiordland NP	Murchison Mountains	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters
February	2009	Fiordland NP	Lake Te Anau; caving	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters
February	2009	Banks Peninsula	Akaroa Walk	Fiona Donald
February	2009	Codfish Island	Kakapo breeding; volunteer	Anja Scholz
February	2009	Ruahine FP	Stoat trapping; volunteer	Warren Wheeler, Janet Wilson, Graham Peters
March	2009	Arthurs Pass NP	day trips	Avalanche Annett Patzold, Terry Crippen
March	2009	Aoraki/Mt Cook NP	Mueller Hut	Llew & Jenny Prichard
March	2009	Mt Somers	Mt Somers Walkway	Llew & Jenny Prichard
March	2009	Mt Richmond FP	Richmond Ra, Wakamarina Valley	Llew & Jenny Prichard

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**Palmerston North  
Tramping and  
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Inc.**

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

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## **PNTMC Newsletter**

**May 2009**

### ***What's Inside this month:***

- *Upcoming trips and club events*
- *Reports on recent trips*
- *Report on the recent AGM*
- *Who's done what list for 2008/9*

**Get out and about with us!  
[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)**

### **PNTMC Contacts**

Club Patron	Lawson Pither	357 3033
President	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761
Vice President	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Secretary	Terry Crippen	356 3588
Treasurer	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
Webmaster	Peter Wiles	558 6894
Membership Enquires	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
	Penny Abercrombie	358 7007
Gear Custodian	Mick Leyland	358 3183
Newsletter Editor	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
Trip Co-ordinators	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Snowcraft Programme	Terry Crippen	356 3588