

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter June 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.

11 June Club night Ethiopian Adventures

Christine Scott, along with her two brothers and sister, travelled by four-wheel drive down the Rift Valley to the border with Kenya. Along the way they visited a number of tribes before following the northern historical circuit looking at the rock hewn churches, the Queen of Sheba's palace, medieval palaces in Gonder and the Semien National Park. They were accompanied by their two drivers, a guide, a cook and Christine's cousin who now lives in Ethiopia. Come along and see part of the world where few of us would have ever thought to visit, you might be surprised and even inspired.

25 June Club night Tibet

A slide presentation by Richard Lockett on his trip last year to China and visiting Lhasa in Tibet.

Upcoming Trips

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trampler 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

Change to meeting point for trips

Trips have traditionally departed from the Countdown carpark, but with this becoming a less accessible meeting point, the Committee decided to formally change the meeting point. Trips will now leave from Milverton Park unless the Trip leader decides otherwise. The suggested meeting place is on the Ferguson Street side of the park where there is some shelter. There are plenty of parking spaces on both Ferguson St and Victoria Ave. There are no time restrictions and no charge for parking.

6-7 June

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

This a little hut near Diggers Hut. A nice easy walk across farmland and a bit of bush to a pleasant little hut by the river. Contact Mick for more details.

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.

13 - 14 June

Trains Hut M
Chris Tuffley 359-2530

Join us on a gentle stroll through lush forest up the Waitotara River, passing the ruins of the Kapara Homestead on the way from Taumatatahi to Trains Hut. We'll admire the Terereohaupa Falls and explore the surrounding area, then return the same way on Sunday. The track is completely bridged and rarely rises above the 100m contour, so we should be fine whatever the weather throws at us! Leaving 7:00 am.

14 June E or E/M

Anja's social trip
Anja Scholz 356 6454

Anja will finally be back from hut-wardening at TNP, and would like to catch up with people. She is planning a nice social trip, likely the Gorge or Coppermine for easy access, good walk/coffee ratio, and not too much huffing and puffing to be able to chat. Start at 8:30 am Milverton Park.

20 - 21 June

Rangi Mid-Winter Celebrations E/M
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

At last! An olde tradition is revived at Rangiwhia Hut, which in earlier times was looked after by PNTMC. Depart PN at 9.00am on Saturday. Lunch at the hut. Settle in with decorating the hut for Samx Dinner (that's "Xmas" backwards) and play in the snow (hopefully, BYO skis) or walk about 45 minutes to Mangahuia for views of the central Ruahine Range. Bring a gift to put under the Samx Tree for Father Samxness to give to all the good trampers. Mid-winter dip is an optional "Must Do" at the waterfall. The walk out will be via Deadmans Track (5 hrs) or direct (1.5hrs) depending on how you feel. Contact Warren for further details.

21 June

Rangi Hut Day Trip E
Malcolm Parker 357 5203

Join us on a trip up to Rangi for the day. Depart at 8.00am we'll head up to the hut and meet up with those that ventured up there on Saturday for the mid winter Christmas celebrations. We may go for a wander along up past the hut too.

27 - 28 June

Oturere Hut M
Peter Wiles 358 6894

Visit to the lava fields to the east of Tongariro-Ngauruhoe. Contact Peter for more details.

28 June

Wellington Urban Tramp M/F
Martin Lawrence 357 1695

Yes there are worthwhile tracks in the hills around and behind Wellington. Forget your credit card, think urban tramping.

July Trips

The trip card for the second half of 2009 will be coming out with the July newsletter. Included below are the trips on the card for July. For more details contact the trip leaders.

4-5 July

Castlepoint Explorer E
Jennifer Kitchen 323 6694

This is an opportunity for club members to enjoy a relaxed weekend at the Kitchen family's bach. There is plenty to do so this trip should appeal to a wide range of club members. This is the only club trip on this weekend. No day trip is being offered as we think this trip will cater for all.

11 July (Saturday) M

Manawatu Gorge Track
Gina Fermor 356 1095

Come along and check out all the improvements that have been made to the track.

11 - 12 July M or F

Sunrise or Top Maroepa
Peter Wiles 358 6894

18 - 19 July M

Kelly Knight
Llew Prichard 358 2217

19 July

Roaring Stag M
Anja Scholz 356 6454

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Anne Lawrence email: dahlia44@xtra.co.nz or go send to the newsletter editor via the website: <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>.

Notices

Snowcraft Programme 2009

The Club's 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 of mountaineering.

The programme consists of three weekends up 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 SC 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.



Applications (with registration form and fees) close Thursday 16th July.

SC1 evening Tuesday 28 July.
SC1 weekend 1-2 August

SC2 evening Tuesday 11 August.
SC2 Weekend 15-16 August

SC3 evening Tuesday 25 August.
SC3 weekend 29-30 August

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 Club members.

	SC1	SC2	SC3	One off payment
Member	\$130	\$145	\$135	\$395
Non-member	\$135	\$150	\$140	\$410

For further information & registration form, pick up one at Club night, or visit the Snowcraft link on the Club web site, or contact
Terry Crippen 356 3588
Bruce van Brunt 328 4761
Alasdair Noble 356 1094

Welcome to new club member

Michael Allerby has joined the club – welcome!
phone 323 8563; email mallerby@orcon.net.nz

Trip Reports

Oturere Crater, Waihohonu Springs, Tama Lakes, Mount Tama Fly Camp

14-15 March 2009

Report and photos: Murray Gifford

Day 1:

We were only a party of two and the weather forecast was great so an early start 7.00am. Warren collected me in the trusty blue Renault and we were on the trail to Waihohonu hut by 10.00am. One hour up through the purple flowering heather and tussock to our first tiki tour for the day. A side trip to the Ohinepango fresh water springs, approx 20minutes off the main track on the way to Rangipo Hut. The springs were cold and refreshing and appear from beneath a lava flow off Ruapehu. Wax eye flitted about in the trees at the spring.

Back to the main track and just past the turnoff to the new Waihohonu hut is the turn off to the old hut. An historic hut built around 1904 from two skins of corrugated iron with pumice insulation. The has had a major restoration, has some history boards close by and displays of cooking pots and foods of yester year inside, all well worth the visit. Many have carved their names into the bunks, walls and ceiling. Did you know that in those early times you could catch a horse and coach to the hut from Rotorua and then continue on to Pipiriki to catch a paddle steamer to Wanganui. Now there's an idea for a re-enactment adventure trip!

We had lunch and pondered the afternoon. We set off for Oturere hut, direct across the river and rejoined the main track near the top of the hill. A short descent thru beech forest to the Waihohonu stream, up the ridge then a long sidle around the base of the crater, up and down thru approx five east Ngauruhoe tributaries. We arrived at Oturere Hut about 3.00pm, refreshed water bottles and lamented the possibility of a hot shower from a great solar panel sitting in front of the hut, all unconnected.

On up the Emerald lakes track for half and hour and hunted out a fly camp close to the Oturere stream 500m from the main track. The site had a few rock, little to fasten fly ropes to, so a low slung fly tied to the tundra did the job with a mossy floor to sleep on, right on the northern edge of the crater. The night was clam, cold, a frost and full moon. We ate and slept well from dusk.



Day 2:

We were on the trail by 7.30am Sunday morning, perfect day, little cloud. We headed south across the crater, making cracking pace in the sand dunes between lava ridges. Up and over a small ridge on the crater edge, a sidle across a valley head and up onto a ridge to the Waihohonu stream. A further quick trip down the ridge in fast going country took us to the top of volcanic rock outcrops above the Waihohonu springs. A steep decent thru the rocks took us to the valley floor and by 10,00am we were sitting at the springs, enjoying the best water in the country. From here we headed west up the south side of the lava flow into a basin that feeds a dry lake and Tama lake.



The dry lake appeared like muddy brown water, but as we approached realised we could both walk on water and over the dry lake we went, just flat damp silt. Just past the lake one looks over the crater edge

to Tama Lake, a large blue lake nestled in a crater. From here we headed NE up the ridge to little Mt Tama, a half hour boulder hop to the top. By 12.00am we were having lunch on the top and enjoying wide views. Another half hour and we reached Mt Tama, a short stop and headed off steeply down the east face to the East Ridge and a straight line to the Waihohonu hut. The slopes were like hard dunes, fast travel, and great for a day's ski touring in mid winter. The final hour to the car was a bit of a drag, but we filled up our water bottles at the end with a bit more of that great spring water to bring home. A great couple of days touring the NE to SE slopes of Ngaurahoe.

We were Warren Wheeler (leader and tour guide) and Murray Gifford (photographer for the trip).

Te Araroa Walkway – The Mangahao- Makahika Track 2 May 2009

Report and photos: **Tony Gates**

On a fine but chilly autumn (really winter) day, the seven of us ambled through the Mangahao-Makahika section of the Te Araroa Walkway. Three returned to the cars to drive around to the Makahika (southern) road end, and four of us were then able to continue right through and complete the track. Thanks drivers. I was impressed, as a Tararua regular, of the beauty and interest, as well as ease of tramping, on this track. - and, of course, the close proximity to Palmerston North. The Te Araroa Walkway people have been busy with signs, car parks, track markers, lookouts, and of course the track itself. This new track, opened February 2008 by Helen Clark, makes a fine continuation south of Burtons Track, and a great addition to the many easy tramping trails in our area.

We departed the cars in good time, just after Warren and team tooted their good morning as they drove deeper into the Tararuas on their overnight tramp to Mangahao Flats hut. The southerly and easterly weather obviously poured clag, mist, and probably snow onto the Mt Holdsworth-Ruamahanga side of the range, whereas we were on the clear but cold side. Exercise soon warmed us. Some interesting botany is in the area, which has predominantly open mixed podocarp kamahi forest on relatively easy terrain. We surmised that parts of it had once been logged and farmed. The occasional beech tree was noted at Blackwood Stream. At our feet, we noted some delicately beautiful specimens of *Hygrocybe rubrocarnosa*, a bright red wax gill fungus.



Hygrocybe rubrocarnosa, A bright red wax gill fungus.

Views were scarce to the east, with only the occasional peep out towards the Mangahao Dams, but never actually a view of them. There were three cut lookouts to the west, which showed us some of the plains and foothills, and gave us a good indication of progress. At Archey's Lookout (about half way), we paused for lunch and to chat to some locals. It was from there that the vehicle drivers returned north, allowing the remainder of us to continue south. We crossed several attractive headwater creeks of the Mangaore, then Makahika Streams, all set in more open and regenerating tawa forest. By then, the track followed an old bush tramway line. Good campsights were numerous. Presently, we reached the farmland, and with it, views of from where we had been. Wet feet at the end hardly dampened our spirits to do this tramp again, and explore the area further.



Tramping the Mangahao- Makahika track.

Trampers were; Woody and May Lee, Peter Wiles, Rene van Oosten, Richard Lockett, Duncan Hedderley, and Tony Gates.

The Northern Backbone of the Tararuas

3 - 4 April 2009

Report and photos: Murray Gifford

Background:

For some time I have studied over the Levin and Carterton maps and contemplated a trip along the backbone of the Tararuas. Some have done it in 24hrs, but this is not for me. I walked to East Peak above Herepai as a day walk last year and sat and longed to venture onwards as far as the eye could see, Mitre, the highest point standing above the ranges way in the south behind Bannister.

Leslie Adkin and Bert Lancaster first walked the Northern Crossing in 1909 from Ohau to Mitre and we would follow in their footsteps for the latter part of our trip and the section Arete to Putara Rd is considered by some part of the northern crossing of the Tararua's today.

The forecast for Friday looked great, a settled high sitting over the Central North Island, this is the weather for the Tararua tops. A call to Warren caught his interest and the plan was hatched. Terry couldn't come on Friday but volunteered to drop us at Putara Rd end Friday morning 8.00am, thanks to Terry to get us underway.

Day 1:

We started with overnight packs, one dinner only, all up about 12kgs so good to go for a long day. Up the Mangatainoka river for half an hour, wondering how far we could go in a day. Up the steep track to the spur leading to Roaring Stag, down and up again to Herepai hut, 10.00am, time to fill water bottles and prepare for the climbs ahead. A short stop, filled in the hut book. Up the leatherwood ridge to the top of Herepai, 1100m, time to take in the views of the start point, the Eketahuna farming areas. Ruapae and East peaks well up above and around to the SW. Onwards and upward thru the deep tussock grasses to Ruapae 1279m, 11.00am, now views out to the north and west to Mangahao valley etc.

Going well we headed along the narrow ridge and up the final ascent to East Peak (1355m) at 12 noon. Views in all directions, weather near perfect, just a bit of cloud hanging in behind us, slight breeze only; time for lunch to build up energy supplies for the afternoon. It is a little depressing looking ahead from here, Hells Gate is next, 200m back down and straight back up to West peak on the main ridge. This is the start of the backbone and you have to be prepared to travel down 200m and back up for every peak from here to the end. We caught up to two women from Masterton heading for a Dundas Cattle Ridge circuit. After a short chat we headed onwards ahead of them.

No time to sit for long - we had six further peaks to climb over before the end of the day. Walker at 1392m was very straight forward and not so much down. Pukemoremore (1474m) has a long rocky ridge and takes a bit of time, finally gaining views of Dundas Hut down to the east well below the peak near the bush line. A steep descent to a saddle and the cairn to Dundas Hut, up and over smaller peaks and onto Logan at 1500 m, straight forward, Dundas at 1499m towers beyond after a big dipper and looks a bit steep, a buttress of a mountain top, but the route heads a bit around from the east and is a easy walk to the Trig.



Warren on Logan looking south to Dundas

Time to look back; we were going well, 5.00pm. Vodafone cell phone works from the top, so we checked in and reported on schedule. Arete was way to the south, a long walk over smaller peaks and I keep wondering if we had to climb Arete ahead at days end. We were able to drop to the eastern Arete bench from the ridge and the Arete hut looked ever so welcome by 7.00pm, 11 hours on the go. The wind was up a bit and the ventilation of the hut seems to make the breeze sound like a gale a sit whistles around the Hut. The temperature cooled quickly, time for soup, dinner and dessert, a raspberry instant pud with plain yoghurt, great. We were in bed by dark, time to rest the wary bones.



Warren at Arête Biv

Day 2:

The sunrise greeted us about 7am, casting that yellow light on the eastern faces, a quick breakfast and were we on the trail by 8.00am. The skies were clear but a brisk cold wind blew in from the east, a side wind that knocked us a bit off balance at times and had us in our overtrou, mittens and balaclavas quickly. A long easy ridge to commence with and finally a haul up onto a Lancaster spur, no energy to do the last 500m to the top to the west, the Waiohine pinnacles looking menacing ahead. Time to stop, refuel and take in the views to Girdlestone to the south, Waiohine and Park rivers, Carkeek, Dracophyllum knob to the west, and of course the next trip, the main range to Hector.

The Waiohine pinnacles were steep and rocky and had a few stop and think points, but basically rock scrambling. Not a good place in the mist and not a place to have a fall, due care taken and they were behind us. In all about 4/5 rocky knobs need to be traversed along the very peak of the ridge. From here a breather, time to shed some clothes as it had warmed up and the wind dropped, down the gently sloping Tarn Ridge and quite a few clear tarns to be found. The trail drops to a low point almost at leatherwood line at 1250m and back up for half an hour to the Blanchett memorial cross and Tarn Ridge hut just 50m from the ridge on the east side of the range.

Four hunters had just arrived by chopper for 8 days hunting, enough food to feed an army. Hot sausages were on and the smell was wonderful. Time for a brew and a chat. On upwards the trail rises to Girdlestone at 1546m via a number of rocky false peaks, but easy travel. Girdlestone has great views; the whole of the Tararua Park can be seen and contemplated from here. A jaunt down to Brockett and Mitre at 1571m rises up in front looking steep face on. A good dipper and finally on to the north rock ridge of Mitre. A steep trail up thru the rock, a well-marked trail, needs care, steep with potential fall spots, again not a great place in the mist.

Finally at 1pm on the top of Mitre, we were able to gaze back at Hells Gate and East Peak and wonder how we got that far in a day. It is 16km as the bird flies along the route. Time for lunch, another cell phone call to confirm our transport out and finish time. Down over Peggy's Peak, down the south ridge, down into the forest, down, down to 400m and the Mitre Flats Hut, by 3pm. A quick refresh stop, sun shining, bridge is just 5 minutes south of the hut and the dreaded Barra track, straight up 200m onto the side of the ridge for a long 2 hour sidle through the tree roots to the farmland and roads. A final 2/3 km over farm track brought us out to the Waingawa Road end. Amazing timing as wife Noeline had just arrived at 6.30pm to take us home. Another 11 hour day behind us but we both felt in good shape, just tired and weary, 35km all up. We had travelled on or over

17 Tararua peaks - a good rule of thumb is to allow an hour on average for each one.



Murray looking towards Mitre

We were Murray Gifford (leader) and Warren Wheeler.

Oroua River, Iron Gate Hut

10 May 2009

Report and photos: Murray Gifford

We were a party of six, three from Fielding and the other three from Palmie. The forecast for the day was rain, but the day dawned fine and mild and were on the road at 7.30am, headed for Table Flat road, a good hour's drive away. We all met at Cheltenham which offered the chance of a bite of breakfast for some hungry souls.

The weather remained fine for the start of the trip, the cloud hanging low about the ranges and the skies dark. Down thru the farmland to the Umutoi stream and the wooden arch bridge, then up the hill and over to the Alice Nash Hut in no time, 9am. Time to fill the water bottles, shed a few layers, inspect the hut and get ready for the day. The track sign points north from the hut and says 4 hours to Iron Bark.

The track sidles at first and drops steeply into the first tributary. The old track to the west has been cut off by a large slip so a short jaunt up the tributary and a good 15 minute climb straight up the spur to the ridge, rejoining the old track a little down the ridge from the high point. The weather deteriorates and the rain sets in, but not heavy. A long sidle thru the beech forest, then and steep drop into the Oroua River, cambering around the rocks and heading north beside the river. Finally the track heads steeply back up to a sidle and another steep descent to the Tunupo tributary. Not too much water in this side stream, just enough to get the feet wet. Time for snack and drink. Straight back up the hill to the familiar sidle track. A few tree falls to obstruct the track, up and down into smaller tributaries and finally down to some small

grassy flats. Some easy going, over the last spur and a low river bench is seen on the left, which looks like an ideal place for a hut. Thru the bush to the northern side of the bench and the hut is perched on a grassy area 10m above the river. Time was 11.30am, so a good fast trip, just over 2½ hours from the Alice Nash hut.



The gas cooker and pot came out for hot soup and drinks. Packed lunches saw us refreshed and by now the weather had turned to hail, but only a small amount settled. The rest and hail finally lead to chills and time to get the puffer going and head for home via the route in. Three hours and we were back at Alice Nash hut, the late sun streaming in so a great place to shed the parkas, warm up and try some chocolate. The tops of the Whanahuia range had a good topping of snow, Tunupo only a dusting. Then it was out to the car and afternoon tea at Henson's in Kimbolton. A good day's outing and a good stretch of the legs.



We were Craig Allerby, brother Mike Allerby, Richard Lockhart, Terry Crippen, Mike Hudson (from Scotland) and Murray Gifford.

Mangahao Flats

2-3 May 2009

Report: Karen Griffiths

I was the only one to accompany Warren Wheeler on this trip to Mangahao Flats Hut in the Tararua Forest Park. We drove up from Shannon past the Mangahao Hydro Electric Power Station and up a winding gravel road to the Top Reservoir Dam. We started attempting to walk up the river, but it was too high, so we kept to the bush track for our expected 5 - 6 hour tramp to the hut.

It was to be my first time in the bush for quite a time so I was a little nervous. In addition the last time I had attempted this tramp I ended up falling down a bank and breaking my leg resulting a night out and a rescue by helicopter the next day. However, Warren soon put my fears to rest as he demonstrated his knowledge and vast experience

The weather was perfect and Warren kept at an easy pace that suited me fine, while pointing out many interesting flora and fauna as we went. The track is pretty rugged with some ups and downs and at times I struggled while sidling and scrambling along some steep areas beside the river. We passed a couple of washed out areas that caused me some anxiety and, understandably, stretched Warren's patience with me.



However, after a day with 3 rest stops at beautiful sunny spots, and a few bridge crossings, we arrived at the hut – about 6 hours after we left. I was pleased to have identified the place I had fallen in 2004 and where I had spent the night. I was amazed at how determined I must have been to have dragged myself quite a way down the track and to descend down a waterfall to get to the river bank, where I was collected by the helicopter. I was able to put some ghosts to rest.

After a snack of cheese and crackers we were joined by three young lads from The Beehive who kept us entertained for the evening. They had taken the wet track and arrived cold and wet so Warren got the fire

roaring. The hut is very well kept and sleeps about 16 with water taps and good benches and a big table.

Our walk out took about 6 hours again at an easy pace and stopping to try and find the location of the old Harris Creek Hutt. The sun was out but at times it was quite dark in the dense bush. There were a few muddy patches that I managed to dunk my boots in and very close to then end of the tramp Warren sprained his foot when he missed his footing. He did the expected “dance of the hurt” but he was able to continue on.

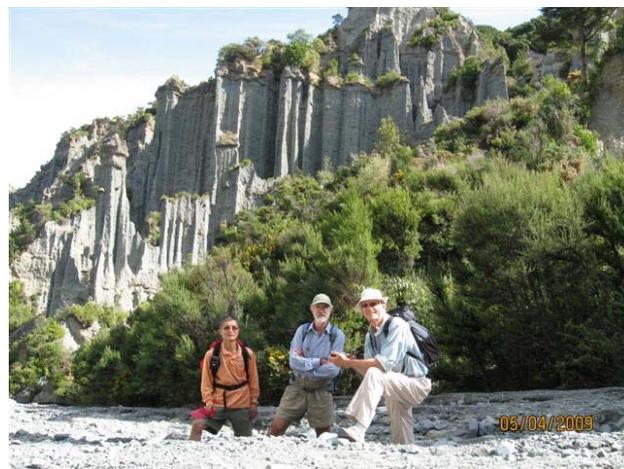
All in all a good tramp!

The Wairarapa Pinnacles

25 April 2009

Report and pics: Trevor King

Sunday dawned a beautiful day. We left Palmy about 6.30 am, stopping at Martinborough for breakfast, and nice views over Cook Strait on the stretch along the southern Wairarapa coast. The basic Pinnacles walk is a easy loop track (taking about 2 hrs) with a scenic overview of the Pinnacles ravines, but diversions to enter the ravines and inspect them from the bottom-up were the order of the day. The posse included Trevor (trip leader), Terry, Warren and Woody. Going up the river bed, the first ravine ventured into was on the east shortly after leaving the loop track, where Terry commented on a large amount of sedimented gravel which suggested high erosion. There was a surprising array of hidden and fairly spectacular erosional landforms in a small branching catchment, but Warren said it was better further up the main valley, as it proved to be. Small capstones have created a serrated valley landscape, reminding Warren of the Badlands, and Trevor of Cappadocia in Turkey (but without the cave-houses). We returned via the ridge loop track with its precipice edges back to the carpark by the road.



Woody got extra exercise recovering something Trevor left behind at the viewing platform where lunch was had. The walk was not too strenuous and largely uneventful but very interesting with good photo opportunities at the right time of day. Retreated to the lake Ferry pub for a liquid recovery round and a bowl of chips, and then on to Martinborough where the chance of an educational session at the Ata Rangi winery was just too great to pass up. Got back to Palmy in time for dinner.

We were Terry Crippen, Warren Wheeler, Trevor King and Woody Lee.

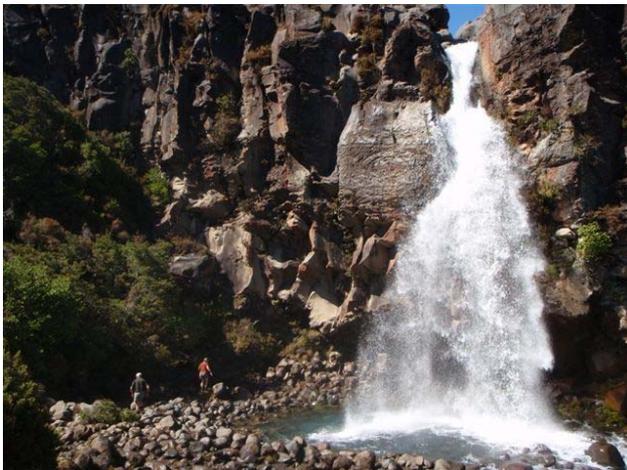
Taranaki Falls and Tama Lakes

30 November 08

Report: Trevor King

Pics: Terry Crippen

Most of the team (Annette, Terry and Trevor (trip leader)) left Palmy early at 6 am via Fielding (picking up Richard) bound for Mt Ruapehu. Warren joined us around 9 am at the Chateau. We were lucky to have a beautiful fine day and a dry track underfoot, making this an easier Tama Lakes trip than usual. Leaving the Chateau we took the bottom (scenic) track to the Taranaki Falls, which impressed with its volume of snowmelt cascading into the gully. The more adventurous went underneath the falls.



Investigating Taranaki Falls

A short distance after the Falls, we joined the main track to Tama Lakes, which was quite busy as we passed several groups going in the opposite direction. From the Lower Tama we traversed the broad ridge to the crater rim of the Upper Tama, arriving there at 1 pm. Being a fine day the views were quite wonderful, and everyone relaxed over lunch. Warren and Richard went down to test the waters of Upper Tama. We lingered here rather a long time, before making our way back to the Chateau, arriving quite tired after 4.30 p.m., and just in time to have an 'Aussie' (the packaged drinks were all made in Aussie!) tea and icecream at the Motor Camp picnic tables. Again we

lingered, this time over a very pleasant tea and good company, before a delicious dinner at the Countryman Chinese Restaurant at Taihape, and finally home.

We were Annette Patzold, Terry Crippen, Trevor King and Warren Wheeler.

Of interest...

This is the recipe for the volcanic chocolate cake which Warren Wheeler demonstrated at the AGM. Its immediate consumption proved that this is a recipe worth trying!

Mt Doom

3 cups couscous

6 cups water

1 cup drinking chocolate

1 cup chocolate chips

1/2 cup of strawberry jam.

1 teaspoon of chilli powder (more or less to taste)

1 litre round tub of gooey raspberry ripple icecream (or similar)

Greek yoghurt

Optional extra - chopped crystallised ginger pieces

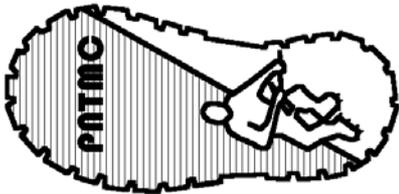
Boil water, add drinking chocolate and chilli and stir in couscous. Leave to soak for about 5 minutes. Stir and allow to cool to about blood heat. Stir in chocolate chips and ginger (optional).

Tip the ice cream into the centre of a large mixing bowl (or serving plate) to form the volcano core. Shape the couscous into a volcano shape around the ice cream.

Pour the jam and yoghurt over the top to form runnels of lava and snow.

Serves 12 hungry trampers.

Sender: PNTMC
PO Box 1217
Palmerston North



Palmerston North
Tramping and
Mountaineering Club
Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

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PNTMC Newsletter

June 2009

What's inside this month?

- *Upcoming trips and club events*
- *Reports on recent trips and events*

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