

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter June 2010

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.

10 June

Japanese Northern Alps Terry Crippen

Terry spent a month in Japan recently, and did some tramping and scrambling in the Northern Alps and elsewhere on Honshu. With a fellow ex PNTMC member, he ascended Yaragataki Peak. At 3180 m, this is the 5th highest peak in Japan.

17 June, Committee Meeting

24 June

Denali. Mark Tootill

Last year Mark Tootill joined three friends from Finland to tackle Denali ("the High One"). This dangerous and beautiful mountain, renowned as the coldest in the world, rises in the middle of Alaska to an altitude of 6194m. Known also as Mt McKinley, it is essential climbing for anyone attempting the Seven Summits on Seven Continents. Come along and see how he got on. Warning - warm hat and gloves may be required.

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Tony Gates, the newsletter editor, at kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz, or via <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>

Upcoming Trips

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient tramp should expect 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 Milverton Park. A charge for transport will be collected on the day.

Gear for trips

Minimum gear for day trips is appropriate footwear, pack, lunch and snacks, waterproof jacket, overtrousers, gloves, warm hat, torch, toilet paper, matches or a lighter, sunblock, first aid kit, and a survival bag or space blanket. Each person needs to be equipped to survive overnight.

Trip leaders

Complete the trip intentions form and leave with one of Overdue Trip Contacts or drop into 44 Dahlia St. If you are unable to run your trip as scheduled, advise a trip coordinator as soon as possible so that alternatives can be arranged.

Overdue Trips

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

4- 7 June

Queen's Birthday Coastal Classic

Janet Wilson 329 4722

Starting on Friday, this classic social trip will be based at a cosy 12-bed house near the Putangirua Pinnacles, on the coastal Wairarapa. There are plenty of great day trips to do by MTB or foot. Further details from Janet.

7 June (Mon)

Purity Hut M
Peter Wiles 358 6894

This Western Ruahine day tramp will leave at 7.30 am. We aim to climb the Purity Hut track to

the tussock and the Hikurangi Range. This area has great views of the central North Island.

12- 13 June

McIntosh Hut, Kawekas E
Geoff, Rochelle Beaumont 354 4829

A cosy bush hut with a great fire box, guaranteed to keep you warm on a frosty night here. Good tramping tracks, and a brand new steel bridge over the Tutaekuri River. An interesting area. Contact Geoff and Rochelle for depart time.

13 June

Burn Hut M
Dave Grant 357 8269

This tramp in the northern Tararuas will take us from the Mangahao middle dam up onto the tops for lunch at Burn hut. The route then loops back to the top dam via College creek. A great variety of scenery and terrain – river valley, bush, tussock and leatherwood. Leave from Milverton Park 7.30am.

19 June (Sat)

Rangi Hut M
Peter Chamberlain 356 5539

This is a classic Western Ruahine Hut, easily reached with a little sweating up the track. Lunch and a stroll in the tussock, then return back down the track. An Ice axe or walking pole might be useful. Meet 9.00am Milverton Park.

20 June

Stanfield Hut E
Mick Leyland 358 3183

An easy walk in the SE Ruahines, in from Dannevirke. This hut is a favorite of many, being easy to reach, and with good river and bush scenery.

26- 27 June

Castlepoint (Mid Winter) All
Kaye and Jennifer Kitchen 323 6694

Lots of walking possibilities here- Castle Rock, the Lighthouse, the reef, sandhills, of simply just the beach. Fishing is available. Mid winter celebrations at the seaside, in a large house.

4 July

Te Araroa Walkway E
Richard Lockett 323 0948

A pleasant day stroll on a section of the newly completed Te Araroa Walkway alongside the Rangitikei River, between Halcombe and Bulls.

5 July

Punga Hut E/ M
Tony Gates 357 7439

Depart 8.00am. Located in the northern Tararuas, this rustic bush hut offers a good introduction to local bush tramping.

10- 11 July

Cow Creek Hut M
Janet Wilson 329 4722

This cosy Tararua riverside hut is in from Masterton, with good tracks and bridges to allow a variety of possible routes to follow, depending on the weather, the team, and the vehicles.

11 July

K2- Mt Cook E / M / T
Warren Wheeler 356 1996

Depart 6.00am. K2 before breakfast, Mt Cook by noon. Join us for another attempt on these two iconic “peaks” located near Bainesse. Full climbing gear and technical ropework will ensure our party safely reaches the summits and returns to our Base Camp that we will set up below the imposing south face of K2. There will also be free climbing solo attempts. The current record for climbing the south face of K2 (in crampons, without oxygen) is 30 seconds, while for the 58,000mm summit of Mt Cook is 45 seconds. One of our most challenging expeditions and a must-do for anyone going on Snowcraft.

17- 18 July

Wellington Winter Walks E/ M
Anne Lawrence 357 1965

Depart PN at 9am, and drive to Wellington. Once there we will spend the rest of the day exploring Zelandia: The Karori sanctuary. We will spend the night in town and the next day we will head to Miramar to complete a circular route based on the Eastern Walkway. Our route will follow the walkway along the southern end of Miramar Peninsula from the Pass of Branda via the Atatürk Monument to Tarakena Bay and out to Point Dorset, site of World War II gun batteries and observation posts, before heading back along Breaker Bay Road to the vehicles. We should get back to PN late afternoon.

Notices

ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE DUTIES 2010

Trip card coordinators: Janet, Terry
Overdue trip contacts: Mick, Janet, Terry
Membership Enquiries: Warren, Penny
Club night coordinator: Warren
Red bag carrier: Penny
Phone tree: Warren
Gear custodian: Mick Leyland
Archivist: Peter Wiles
Advertising: Warren, Dave, Richard Lockett
Scrapbook/Photos: Dave
SAR contacts: Terry, Janet, Peter Darragh
FMC bulletin dropoff: Tony
Snowcraft: Terry, Bruce, Alasdair
FMC contact: Dave (as secretary)

Newsletter editor Tony
 Funding applications Bruce
 Gear committee Bruce, Mick Leyland,
 Terry, Alasdair
 PO Box clearing and key holders: Dave, Martin
 Web master Peter Wiles
 Projector, screen, computer Warren
 CAB contact Warren
 Quaker Hall contact Terry
 Interclub contact Warren
 Bank signatories Martin, Warren,
 Dave, Bruce (until he returns)
 Hall key holders Warren, Martin, Dave, red bag
 Tukino Rd key holder Mick Leyland

JULY- DECEMBER 2010 TRIP CARD

It's that time again - time to get your thinking caps on and dream up some great trips for the 2nd half of the year. You can plan your future tramping calendar, and bring along your ideas to a club or committee night, or email your trip ideas to Terry or Janet. Plenty of dates available at this stage, and plenty of scope - from Winter to Spring and early Summer, from hard out climbing trips to easy social trips, snowy mountains or good bush huts with good fire boxes.

THE GREAT DEBATE - MUAC vs PNTMC

The historic MUAC-PNTMC Interclub Debate has been resurrected. With beginnings in 1970, there are many memories of some fine debates between the two clubs, and the trophy is pretty well split between the two clubs. 2010 represents the first time in some twenty years that this event has been held.

Two topics were debated- "Should the mining of schedule 4 land on the Conservation Estate be permitted"?, and "Should New Zealand have the right to colonise ice bergs that float into our waters"?

The PNTMC team, featuring Alisdair Noble, Tony Gates, and Graham Peters, talked, lied, bluffed, and laughed their way through their topics, offering the negative for the mining issue, and the affirmative for the iceberg colonisation issue. They rebuffed MUAC in places, and earned more than a few laughs from the audience. Like with the Interclub Quiz, the audience assisted the adjudicator with scoring, with PNTMC's 24 points against MUAC's 22 for the first topic, and both sides scoring 22 points on the second. PNTMC are now the proud holders of the historic "Boot and Rock" interclub debating trophy, which is on display above the counter at Bivouac Outdoor.

SNOWCRAFT PROGRAMME 2010

PNTMC runs a comprehensive snowcraft programme. It 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 midweek evening 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.

SC1 evening Wednesday 28 July.
 SC1 weekend 31st July – 1st August

SC2 evening Wednesday 11 August.
 SC2 Weekend 14th -15th August

SC3 evening Wednesday 25 August.
 SC3 weekend 28th – 29th 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.

Pass the word round to friends you may think are interested. Open to Club members and members of the public. For further info & costs; visit the Snowcraft link on the Club web site: www.pntmc.org.nz or contact Terry Crippen 3563-588, or Alasdair Noble 356-1094.

Applications (with registration form and fees) close Thursday 15th July.

Editorial

Your Editor requires assistance - more trip reports please. I think that we do pretty well as a club, doing and then recording our wonderful activities. Sure, everyone is busy, so trip reports (and other Newsletter submissions) are not always completed immediately. There really is no deadline for articles to be sent in, but as editor, I certainly prefer early notification once a trip returns safely. It feels somewhat out of place to have a trip report from last summer in a winter edition, and I try to plan ahead with each edition.

Trip Reports

Mangahao-Ohau
By Janet Wilson

20-21 March

Weather from last summer wasn't particularly good. Autumn showed a marked improvement, with one week of continual perfect weather recently. It may not be so attractive as summer tramping now, with short winter days, but it is often more pleasant in the cool, and the air is clearer. If you find it less appealing tramping in dark, damp bush and over damp river boulders, then there is plenty of pleasant open country to tramp around. It's still a good time to get out and about, as recent trip reports state. I've enjoyed a couple of great days on the tussock tops recently, and look forward to many more this winter. We have plenty of good trips to old favourite spots like Rangi Hut, as advertised above. Happy Tramping.

2 Movie Reviews

This Way of Life

The movie "This Way of Life" has recently been screening at Cinema Gold in Palmerston North. Filmed in Hawkes Bay fairly recently, it features the Karena family during 2008, and stresses family and social issues in an honest and revealing way. And it features the Ruahines - hence this review.

The family own land adjoining the Ikawatea Stream, and are involved with horse trekking tours. There are several lovely shots of children galloping bareback. The big screen showed parts of the northern Ruahines, with its large areas of sweeping tussock, manuka scrub, beech forest, and gravel rivers. And there is the close view (albeit with a telephoto lens) of Mt Ruapehu. Being the Ruahines, poor weather is often shown. Some readers will recognise the area. Indeed, the Ikaweta Stream headwaters are in the Doc predator control area based at Ruahine Corner.

Bad Blood

Maori TV recently featured the true New Zealand story of Stanley Graham. Set on the rural West Coast, Graham went on a murderous rampage in 1944 that left Hitler mocking the New Zealand government that if one man could conquer the South Island, then he would send one other to hold the North. Like any good movie, "Bad Blood" showed plenty of period costume, drama and contorted facial expressions. But this one also showed the bush- Graham's last refuge. Much of the scenery was close up fern and podocarp forest, and river beds, with the armed constabulary and army stalking Graham. There were some lovely Southern Alps scenes which we have probably all seen from the main road.

It was in fine weather that we set off, up the Ohau River. The river was low, not too cold but slippery and we didn't travel very quickly. By the time we reached Sth Ohau Hut for a lateish lunch, drizzle had set in and we lost our enthusiasm for fly camping over in the Mangahao. So Plan B it was - up to Te Matawai Hut for the night. A very pleasant evening was had in the dry. We planned our next day - that was Plans A, B and C - depending on the weather when we awoke.

By morning it was fine enough for Plan A. We turned east up the track for a little way until we reached the track which heads Nth along a ridge to Girdlestone saddle. This track is not marked on some of the 260 series maps but is on the new maps. It is a nice, old track in good condition. Somehow we all managed to miss the saddle and headed on down to the Mangahao (Graham had started to protest about our change in direction). So we went back up to the saddle where there are so many markers it is hard to imagine how we all missed it!



Confusing forest ridges of the upper Ohau catchment from Gable End. Girdlestone Saddle in the centre right, Dundas Ridge beyond. (Photo Tony Gates)

Plan A involved following the untracked ridge Nth from Girdlestone Saddle to a point where we could drop down to North Ohau Hut and then out via the Ohau. So with a selection of GPS, compasses and an altimeter, and a reasonable level of competency, we set off.

This turned into a complete debacle - I think over 400m (according to the GPS) we managed to go well wrong twice before realising that to continue was going to result in us being well overdue. So we turned around to JUST retrace our steps back to the saddle. Just - an interesting word.

At least 2 wrong spurs and a long time later we made it back to the saddle. During this time an interesting battle of wills and technology went on between those with the different navigational aids.

And so, after a break, we went down the well marked track/river route via Dowling Falls to Sth Ohau Hut (Plan B) and retraced our steps back via the river - about 10 hours that day I recall.

One or 2 lessons learnt here I felt. Navigation in this terrain is not easy - the mist was down which means that your perception of distance and depth can be quite distorted. Study the route beforehand in good light - plenty of us without glasses could perhaps see better with them - at least when the light is poor. Its amazing how much more detail you see in bright light .Only persons who are actively navigating should go in front and when things get a bit confused, it's a good time to take a break and have a think about your situation.

Its a excellent area to practise navigation so look forward to a trip there sometime in the future.

We were Richard Lockett (leader), Graham Peters, Woody Lee and Janet Wilson (scribe).

Roaring Stag Lodge 17-18 April **By Kylie Phillips**

A beautiful sunny day greeted us Saturday morning and beckoned us into the mighty Tararuas. Winding along the river and crossing a few high swing bridges were highlights. Botanical stops were the theme of the trip – Jennifer found a fingertip sized native orchid (we hope it's native?) with a powerful aroma – offensive to some and pleasant to others – oh how our senses do differ. Bright red rata flowers were glimpsed occasionally and the Tuis' songs were sweet to the ear, along with the swooping wings of the Kereru (native wood pigeon). The maiden fern graced the side of the path much of the way and we saw the bush foliage change with the rise in altitude. Our canine companion added much enthusiasm to the trip party, going back and forth so many times he must've walked twice as far as us, and he did a good job of carrying dinner in his little doggy backpack. An ex-PNTMC member was also in the hut that night with a few stories to tell of his glory days in the club. Talk of protein snow freeze machines kept us enthralled much of the night, Woody getting a few new ideas to take back to work. Whether it was because of snorers in the hut, potential canine companionship or the beautiful clear starry night and the hope of seeing Warren's 'rolex of the sky' (the stars rotating around the

south pole), about half the people in the hut decided to sleep out on the deck.

We woke to another sun-streamed still day, with no hint of the famous wind and turbulent weather that the new member to the area had been warned so much about. Warren showed us a campsite across the river from roaring stag hut, hidden in a sheltered spot amongst the scrub an old fire site lay dormant but ready for the next brave campers (turn left after the swing bridge to find this camper's gem). On the way back Warren gave us some helpful map and compass reading lessons so maybe next time in this area we will have the skills to find the mysterious 'hidden lake'. Kylie discovered it was safe to drink from north island streams as well - after carefully watching the others drink and not gag, she tentatively filled her bottle and enjoyed the crisp Tararuas water too. The only mishap really was a flat tyre at the end of the track, which Geoff expertly changed as we cheered on encouragement, and Rochelle discovered the offending nail. Following behind the racy blue car where Woody looked like he was in the back seat (head rests weren't invented back then, and Woody is a lot shorter than Warren) was entertaining once again. Birthday cake for Geoff on the way back in Eketahuna was a pleasant surprise and a quaint end to the weekend. Many thanks to Geoff and Rochelle for this wonderfully organised trip and all the trampers for the tremendous team spirit.

We were Geoff and Rochelle Beaumont, Warren Wheeler, Woody Lee, Jennifer Kitchen, Kylie Phillips and Piper the dog.



The mob at Roaring Stag Lodge.

Triangle Hut 24- 25 April **Report and photo by Craig Allerby**

Richard, Michael and I left Feilding at 8.00am meeting up with Graham and Janet at the Cheltenham store. We arrived to a empty carpark, a good sign that we might have the hut to ourselves, so after some discussion I gladly

left my tent fly behind. As the weather looked a little bit bleak, we decided to take the more direct route via Rangī hut. Leaving the carpark at 9.25am it wasn't long before we were heading up and over the large slips. Further on Michael pointed out where Warren had guided them up from the stream just before the bridge on a previous trip. At the Rangī hut junction we bumped in to a tramper who seemed confused as to where he was heading. This led to some debate on which way he had come from, while we stopped for morning tea at Rangī hut. Heading off up the track to Triangle in the mist, Janet was doing some TCA to see whether our mystery tramper was heading in the same direction as ourselves. A chilly westerly wind greeted us at the track junction to Triangle hut. A bit further along we dropped off the ridge for lunch in a sheltered spot. Carrying on northeast the mist started to lift allowing us a view of Te Hekenga. We turned eastward dropping off the ridge heading down towards Triangle hut. With a

steep descent for 1 1/2 hrs we crossed the Oroua river, arriving to our delight to a empty hut! Janet noticed the stove was still warm. No record was left in the hut book of any occupants staying the night. On with the billys and a hot brew was had! We sat outside relaxing while Graham took a quick nap. Richard was keen to start on the nibbles so it was out with the crackers, cheeses, chippies and dip with red wine to wash it down. Light rain set in while we contently snacked away for a good while. After a bit of a break, we cooked up some dinner and managed to stuff that down. As Grahams birthday was a couple of days previous, and Richards big FIVE-O was coming up on Monday, Janet had baked a cake for them. To Richards surprise, Janet presented the cake to him and Graham with two candles alight. The delicious carrot cake was soon enjoyed by all. By 8pm, with full and satisfied bellies, we turned in for a good nights sleep.



The team at Triangle Hut.

The morning dawned well with broken cloud and some blue sky. Breakfast was consumed and we were all packed and heading down the Oroua River at 8:45am. After one hour of criss-crossing the river, we arrived at the cross-over track to

Iron Gate Hut. We stopped for morning tea eating the left over carrot cake. The start of the track has slipped away so it was a short scramble up onto the track. Climbing up through the forest we came to the ridgeline. Leaving the

track we headed up the ridge with Graham navigating the way. Once out of the forest and bashing our way through the leatherwood, Richard noticed a deer bounding out of the shrubland up ahead. It appeared several times before we lost it from view. Further on a nice spot was found for lunch. After recharging the batteries we carried on up the ridge through the tussock reaching the high point Mangahuaia. Dropping off Mangahuaia onto the Deadmans track we struck a boggy section which in parts was slippery underfoot. The rest of the journey was easy going, with one snack stop along the way before arriving at the carpark.

Back to Feilding for a shower, dinner and drinks at Murphys Irish bar to celebrate Richards birthday!

We were Craig Allerby, Richard Lockett, Janet Wilson, Graham Peters and Mike Allerby.

Diggers Hut **25 April**
Report and photo by Woody Lee

A small group of trampers departed on time towards the Pohangina Valley and arrived at Arbons Road end, which connects the Pohangina Valley East Road to the Ruahines. Our trip started walking through the farm gates up to the top of the the hill where the forest park begins with the bushline. We enjoyed lovely autumn weather with views of terraces to the northwest, and nearby rural landscape with cattle on one side, sheep on the other side and a pair of paradise ducks flying over.

The track passed through a mixture of tall rimu and tawa trees and was generally well maintained but downhill to the Makawakawa Stream was steep and slippery.

Warren tried to find access to the hut without getting wet feet but gave up as the water level was knee deep. He instead found a dry spot to brew tea for a quick lunch with Anzac biscuits!



A young hunter staying in the hut crossed the stream and we had a chat for a while before he took off to check his possum traps in the bush. He told us the river had come up after some overnight rain but had dropped about half a metre since 8.00am.

Before returning, Warren managed to cross the stream and signed the hut logbook. On the way back we tried looking for possum traps along the marked lines but they were well off the track and we gave up without spotting any. However not far from the bush edge we spotted a leg trap on a leaning ponga and then a poor possum actually caught in one in a grassy clearing beside the track. We left it to its fate and carried on back downhill to the car where we had a chat with Mrs Arbon in the sunshine. She appreciated Warren's call the night before the trip as sometimes the family was questioning strange cars parking on their farm land.

We were Warren Wheeler, Isobel Holdaway, Woody Lee.

Herepai Hut **2 May**
By Peter Wiles

Six enthusiastic trampers set off from the Putara Roadend at around 9.30 on a fine and calm morning. The track was a little damp and muddy after recent rain. After the second bridge the team opted to defer morning tea until they had done a bit more work towards it and reached the junction at the top of the hill.

After morning tea it was only a short walk along the ridge for about 30 minutes before arriving at the hut. There was no one else around. After lunch, we headed up the track towards the open tops leading to Herepai Peak. Everyone reached a vantage spot about 100m below the peak near the end of the scrub and enjoyed the wide vista across the Wairarapa.



On the Herepai tops

Photo Peter Wiles

After several photos, we turned around for the

descent to Putara Road, stopping briefly back at the hut to pick up some of our gear.

An enjoyable day walk was completed by having a coffee back at Eketahuna.

The international team comprised: Holly Yang, Lei Jiang, Margaret Westlake, Duncan Hedderly, Katherina Reiner, Peter Wiles.

Toka Loop Trip **9 May**
By Kelly Buckle

An initially intimidating weather report earlier in the week gave way to still, rainless weather on the day of the trip. Eleven of us piled into three cars and headed north to the Limestone Roadend carpark in the Ruahines near Apiti. The humans and cattle eyed each other warily during the crossing of an initial paddock, but it proceeded uneventfully for both species, and the humans went peacefully on their way up the track.

An early river crossing prompted one group member to attempt a novel “run-on-water” crossing technique, largely unsuccessfully. The walk was of the “up ridge, across ridge, down ridge” Ruahine variety of loop, with a steep sustained ascent up the Knight’s track ridge.

I learned about several new species of tree, including the putaputaweta, or “marble-leaf” (*Carpodatus serratus*), which is host to the native puriri moth, whose larvae can spend up to 3 years inside a hole bored into the tree, covered on the outside by a false membrane. Quite a clever insect.

Continuing on up the ridge we began to get glimpses of Mts. Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe, which rose out of a low cloud bank and looked to be hovering over the earth. As we reached the top we began to feel the brisk breeze blowing from the east over the tops, and although we were mostly sheltered from the wind, it was a reminder that this was an autumn, not a summer, walk.



Ruapehu from Toka

Photo Chris Tuffley

We had lunch at the track junction at the top of Knight’s track, the top of the Ngamoko Range. This was preceded by a quick, viewless excursion to Toka Trig, owing to the clouds blown over from the east by the wind.

After lunch we proceeded south along the ridge, and then turned west and down Short’s track. Although Anja had promised that the Short’s track variant we took was actually less steep than the other option, it was steep enough to challenge both my muscles and knee joints. Nevertheless it was a pleasant track with lovely forest and pretty good footing.

The flat having been reached once again, the meek among us began fretting about the paddock crossing. But this time the cattle couldn’t even be bothered turning to inspect or follow the now-weary trampers, and except for the threat of the odd cow-pie landmine the paddock crossing was uneventful.

On our way back home after a sustained day of walking, we stopped in Kimbolton for a cold drink and a hot chip, or a piece of chocolate cake. Those of us sitting by the fireplace didn’t want to leave, but eventually we all piled back into the vehicles, and arrived safely after sunset in Palmerston North.

We were; Tony Gates, Warren Wheeler, Richard Lockett, Michael Allerby, Craig Allerby, Kelly Buckle, Chris Tuffley, Nicola Wallace, Isobel Holdaway, Daisy Bai, and leader Anja Scholz.



On Toka Trig

Photo Tony Gates

Historical feature

PNTMC Bushcraft Course Mangahao River 30 November 1968. By (the late) Vern Stout.

With Sheryll Kirkpatrick, Ian Hoare, Graham Pascoe, Nick McPherson, Kevin Pearce, Owen Mills, and Wally Blanchard

30th November - 1st December saw the Bushcraft Course conducted by Vern Stout, whose very able instruction and interesting anecdotes were absorbed by the small but keen group. Camp was made about ten minutes up the Harris Creek from its junction with the Mangahao River.

There is an interesting theory proposed by one of the experienced members of the Club which says that novices should suffer, as this builds character and hardy trampers. Ideal suffering conditions were supplied by continuous rain from about 3 o'clock while camp was being made. Once in bed however, it was just like home - w-e-e-ll almost like home. Sunday brought very good sunny conditions for the assault on West Peak. Why is it that after a hardy slog to the summit one looks around only to find that all the neighbouring peaks are higher?

The weekend was very enjoyable and many a valuable point was learnt; such as how to prepare a comfortable bed, how to make a

fireplace, what words to use when dangling upside down from a rope, and that blood is only skin deep!. Finally, encouragement to the younger members who on a ratio, of pack-weight to body-weight carried to the equivalent of a twelve stone man carrying a 60 lb pack all weekend.

***Paddy's poem.* By Anon, date unknown. From plaque at Holdsworth Lodge.**

*In my little shack in the supplejack
at the foot of the hill on Holdsworth Track
where the tramper toils, where the billy boils
and the pig and the deer walk free
and the sunset gleams on mountain streams
as they wander to the sea
and when darkness falls and the morepork calls
as he flits from tree to tree
it's lonely I know, as the cold wind blows
but it's home sweet home to me.*

*In my little shack in the supplejack
where someday my soul be free
to roam up high on the mountain top
where the moon comes up so clear
and the snow capped mountains hem you in
with a silence you can almost hear
when high above, the call of love
from a lonely stag you hear
and the stars come out, and they dance about
and the mountains seem so near
and the sun comes up from behind the hill
and the birds all seem to cheer.*

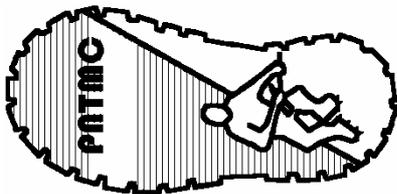
Quote of the month.

"Land Uplifted High", John Pascoe 1952.

For sheer miserable monotony of contour, rigour of weather, and bleakness of outlook, it is hard to beat the Tararuas. They are to Wellington people what oatmeal is to Scottish people; dull solid fare which gives them staple virtues.

It is no defence for the Tararuas to say that they have their fine days. As with shrews, their niceness is unpredictable. Some give these ranges affection, but this presupposes lack of knowledge about other regions and at least an enviable optimism. Then again, some winters have given the Tararuas an even coating of snow, but the icing on this cake seldom remains long enough to be tasted. The tributaries of the rivers are barred with gorges and waterfalls, and to the insult of a dreary grass line is added the indignity of vicious alpine scrub.

[John Pascoe (1908- 1973) was one of New Zealand's most prolific mountain writer/ photographers. He completed numerous first ascents in the Southern Alps during the 1930's, including the West Coast's iconic Mt Evans. Typical of his dedication, Pascoe's research into mountain photographs during the late 1940's uncovered some remarkably accurate aerial photographs of the summit of Mt Everest, vital for Ed Hillary and Tensing Norgay. John's bias here may be attributed to his Canterbury training - Ed]



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P.O. Box 1217,
Palmerston North

PNTMC Newsletter

June 2010

What's inside this month?

- ***Upcoming trips and club events***
- ***Report on Interclub Debate***
- ***Snowcraft Course in August***
- ***Reports on recent trips***
- ***Historical trip report from 1968***
- ***Movie Reviews, Quotes and more***

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Tony Gates, the newsletter editor, via the club website : <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>.

Get out and about with us!

www.pntmc.org.nz

PNTMC Contacts

President	Anne Lawrence	357 1965
Vice President	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Secretary	Dave Grant	357 8269
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	Tony Gates	357 7439
Trip Co-ordinators	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Snowcraft Programme	Terry Crippen	356 3588

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