

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter May 2011

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.

12 May

Kamchatka

Kamchatka is a vast volcanic peninsula in the Russian Far East. During the Soviet era, it was a closed region to foreigners. Now it is open to tourists and the infrastructure is slowly developing. Come along tonight to hear Peter Wiles talk about the teeming wildlife and the vegetation, some that will be immediately familiar and some surprising.

26 May

BYO slides

PNTMC members and friends are invited to bring a selection of their own images to share with the club. An interesting mix guaranteed.

9 June

Wildlife CSI

Kelly Buckle

Wildlife CSI will be an overview of the role of wildlife forensics in the managements and protection of New Zealand's native species. Kelly will be reviewing the role of forensic investigation as well as specific case examples, with an emphasis on conservation.

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

30 April (Sat)

Stanfield Hut

E

Mick Leyland

358 3183

Easy stroll up the Tamaki River to the pleasant Stanfield Hut. If weather permits, return via Holmes Ridge. Depart 8.00 AM.

30 April-1 May

Cattle Ridge

M

Woody Lee

357 2390

The plan is to leave PN at 9am and head over to Putara Road and from there to the Ruamahanga Valley and Roaring Stag Lodge. We will explore the tussock ridge on that day and finish the trip on Sunday early afternoon.

7 May

Navigation Training

all

Terry Crippen

356 3588

A basic introduction to map and compass navigation out and about in a local area. Compasses and maps can be supplied, but bring your own compass if you have one. Start 8am.

8 May

Navigation Exercise

all

Terry Crippen 356 3588 or 027 643 3637

This will be a follow up field exercise from Saturday's activity and will be in the northern Tararua Ranges. It will be a full day's activity and involve route-finding, navigation using map and compass and deciphering route guide information. Depart PN 7:30am.

14- 15 May

Parks Peak Hut

M

Peter Wiles

358 6894

Parks Peak is located on the eastern side of the northern Ruahines. The aim is for a round trip to the hut and back to the road end.

14 May (Sat)

Purity Hut **M**
Peter Darragh **353 0922**

In from Mangaweka, the delightful Purity Hut is reached after a good climb thru farm and bush, then onto open tops. Weather permitting, further Ruahine exploration on the tussock tops is possible. Depart from PN at 7.00am.

21- 22 May

Howlett Hut **M**
Richard Lockett **323 0948**

A classic Ruahine weekend tramp to a favourite hut. In via the track and Tukituki River and out the same way. Depart PN at 7.30am.

22 May

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

A Hunterville hill country stroll on Otairi Station farm tracks, mostly ridges, mostly pasture (with some pines). Expect great views. Depart PN at 7.30am.

28 May (Sat)

Forks Hut **E/ M**
Llew Pritchard **358 2217**

Another classic local Pohangina bush stroll led by an experienced bushman who knows the area well. Into the hut via the farm track and storm damaged tracks. Depart PN at 8.00am.

29 May

Punga Hut **E/ M**
Tony Gates **357 7439**

This charming local bush hut requires some cunning track following and a little scrub bashing to find. It's a lovely spot for a stream side picnic lunch and brew. Depart PN at 9.00am.

4- 6 June (Queen's Birthday Weekend)

Janet's coastal classic **M**
Janet Wilson **329 4722**

This year we are visiting Tora (North Island East Coast) and staying at their summer accommodation at Greentops Quarters. Depart PN on Friday morning. En route, visit the mushroom factory. Plenty of walking on the farm and along the coast and some mountain biking. Looks like a great spot for fishing too. This promises to be a pleasantly social weekend at an interesting location.

Please let Janet know early in May if you want to go on this trip.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trumper 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
Martin and Anne Lawrence	357-1695

Notices

SNOWCRAFT PROGRAMME 2011

PNTMC's snowcraft programme gets underway at the end of July. 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 separate days up Ruapehu a fortnight apart, and a midweek evening session prior to the Ruapehu days. 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 part depending on their previous experience or ambitions.

NOTE: this year we are running Snowcraft as day trips, to give us more flexibility by making use of the best weather and keeping costs down.

SC1 evening Wednesday 27th July.
SC1 day either 30th or 31st July.
SC2 evening Wednesday 10th August.
SC2 day either 13th or 14th August
SC3 evening Wednesday 24th August.
SC3 day either 27th or 28th August

Fees cover weeknight venues, transport, 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; visit the Snowcraft link at: www.pntmc.org.nz or contact either Bruce van Brunt 328-4761 or Terry Crippen 027 643 36 37.

Applications close Thursday 14th July.

FOR SALE

Macpac Olympus tent, 3-4 season, sleeps 2. Older model, but still very good condition. \$100.

Balaclava; *Outdoor Research Baffin*; full face with fold back mouth and nose cover, medium size. \$15.

Macpac Glissade pack, 75 liters, frame size 3, blue, in very good condition. Hasn't been used much. \$100.

Macpac Olivine parka, large size, good tramping length, Gortex, in good condition hasn't been used much, but could probably do with a redo of water repellency. \$50.

Large "Mitre 10" blue tarpaulin 3m x 2.4m, good for fly camping. \$5.

Phone Terry Crippen, 027 643 3637
(or talk to Terry at a Club night).

FIRST AID COURSES

Many PNTMC members have participated in NZ Mountain Safety Council Outdoor First Aid courses. There will be revalidation courses offered during the coming winter. Check for dates and further details at http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz/Training/trainin_g_results.asp

AGM 2011

An excellent membership turnout saw all business processed promptly at our well-organised AGM.

The PNTMC committee for 2011 remains very similar to last year.

Office holders are:

President Anne Lawrence
Vice President Warren Wheeler
Secretary David Grant
Treasurer Martin Lawrence

Committee has continuing members: Tony Gates, Penny Abercrombie, Bruce van Brunt, Terry Crippen and Janet Wilson, joined by two new committee members: Malcolm Parker and Eric Liu.

PNTMC President's Report

31 March 2011

Presented by Anne Lawrence

This is the 45th President's Report and covers what has been an eventful year.

In December, Lawson Pither passed away. Lawson had been club Patron since 1976. Lawson joined PNTMC in 1966, the club's first year of existence and remained a club member for over four decades. Lawson was on the PNTMC committee in 1967, and was club President from 1968-70. He served as the club Auditor for about 20yrs from 1974. His long dedication to the club was recognised when he was made a Life Member in 1987. Lawson's funeral was a wonderful celebration of his life. It also provided an opportunity for a Get Together of "Old" Trampers for the first time in many years and led to the setting up of a Forum on facebook The "Old Boots" of Palmerston North Tramping & Mountaineering Club. This forum is dedicated to the memory of those who are no longer with us and should provide a way to stay in contact, share stories, photographs & reconnect with many others.

In January, Alasdair Noble resigned from the committee when he moved with his family to Christchurch. This was a loss to the committee and the club, particularly as Alasdair has been a key part of the triumvirate that has organised and run the snowcraft courses for many years.

In April 2010, an accident during a club trip resulted in a broken ankle and a helicopter ride for one member. Following this incident, the committee reviewed trip procedures, the list of

recommended equipment and protocols for trip leaders. Revised forms for leaders and participants are now able to be downloaded from the club website and an evening was held to increase awareness of safety for trip leaders – this proved informative for both new and old trip leaders.

As usual the club was involved in a range of activities:

The club was ably represented at the MUAC interclub debate by the winning team of Tony Gates, Alasdair Noble and Graham Peters.

The Interclub Quiz was hosted by MUAC with two teams from PNTMC. Congratulations to Warren Wheeler, Chris Tuffley, and Janet Wilson, members of the Muddy Gaiters team who won the closely fought competition.

The club photo competition was judged by Harley Betts, with Martin Lawrence's photo of Lake Sylvester winning the overall judge's choice. The club did well at Interclub photo competition with photos from Martin Lawrence, Eric Liu, Chris Tuffley and Mike Archer being placed. Woody Lee's photo of trampers at Mount Ngauruhoe won the 'Get Snapped Loving NZ' photo competition.

The club snowcraft programme was again held successfully. Eleven people attended snowcraft I, four attended snowcraft II and two went on snowcraft III.

The club manned a stand at the PN i-site for DOC conservation week in September. The photo display attracted attention, as did the display of tramping gear and clothing.

The club website has been updated to include videos relating to the activities of the club and its members.

The committee sent in submissions about a range of topical issues including mining in schedule 4 areas and a proposal for new place names for 17 watercourses, ridges, and peaks in the Ruahine Forest Park. The committee is looking into purchasing Personal Locator Beacons for use on club trips. The first priority is to develop a protocol for the use of these.

Speakers at club nights have covered a diverse range of topics. Areas covered have included Antarctica, the UK, Japanese Northern Alps, and Danali. Topics have ranged from being a DOC Hut warden through to rogaining. Udo von Mulert also ran a club night on photography skills. Club

trips now need to accommodate a growing number of photographers keen to experiment!

Many people give generously of their time to ensure these activities are successful. A big thanks to all club members involved for their energy and commitment.

The club is well represented by members in the wider community. Examples of this include Terry Crippen's role as instructor for the NZ Alpine Club, Tony Gates and Dave Grant involvement with the local Te Araroa Trust and Janet Wilson and Graham Peters' involvement in Cave SAR. Club members also regularly do volunteer work for DOC and are actively involved in Land SAR. The club also now has a 'voice' in the DOC conservancy with Anne Lawrence's appointment to the Wellington-Hawkes Bay Conservation Board. Following the re-drawing of Conservancy boundaries, the Palmerston North region comes under the jurisdiction of the Wellington-Hawkes Bay Conservation Board as from 1 July 2011.

Statistics for club trips are interesting. The club continues to run trips from easy through to fit and from one day through overnight through to four or more nights. Weather-wise it has been a good year with adverse weather leading to cancellation of only a small proportion of trips.

101 club trips were offered. These were spread fairly evenly between Tararuas, Ruahines and other places. Local places were popular including walkways and farm walks. Tongariro was a popular destination with six trips going there. Other places visited included one trip to Kahurangi National Park, the Kawekas, Wellington, Pureora, Castlepoint and the South Coast of the North Island. Nearly three quarters of the trips offered went ahead. In the Ruahines, 20 day trips were offered with 85% going ahead and 15 overnight trips were offered with 67% going. In the Tararuas, 19 day trips were offered with 79% going and 15 overnight were offered with 53% going. Day trips averaged 5.2 people per trip and overnight trips averaged 4.4 people per trip. These figures are very similar to last year. The biggest number of people on a trip was 11 – this was for Snowcraft I as well as Anja's day trip to Tunipo in May. The Queens' Birthday weekend coastal had 10 making it the biggest weekend trip apart from Snowcraft I. The Manawatu Gorge track proved to be the most common default trip with 3 trips diverted there due to bad weather.

Club members continue to be an active lot outside of organised club activities. This year, club members visited the Arrowsmith Range, Canterbury, Cheviot, Eyre Mountains, Golden

Bay, Mt Thomas Park, Pisa Range, Wanaka, the Rainbow Conservation Area and the Ruataniwha Conservation Park. Forest Parks visited include the Kawekas, Ruahines and Tararuas. National Parks visited include Fiordland, Kahurangi, Mt Cook, Nelson Lakes, Rakiura, Taranaki and Tongariro. Countries visited include Antarctica, Canada Japan, Nepal, Russia and USA.

This year we welcomed Eric and Sandy Liu, and Kathy McKnight to the club. Overall, club membership has remained fairly stable with a total membership of 72. (This figure comes from the 59 membership subscriptions 13 of which are family memberships, so 13 partners add to the total membership count).

I have enjoyed my year as president. It is a privilege to represent such a wonderful group of people and a pleasure to work with the enthusiastic members of the committee. My thanks to all committee members: Warren Wheeler (Vice President and club night convenor), Dave Grant (secretary), Martin Lawrence (Treasurer), Bruce van Brunt, immediate past president and snow craft programme coordinator, Terry Crippen and Alasdair Noble (also snow craft programme coordinators), Tony Gates (newsletter editor), Penny Abercrombie (organisation of supper on club nights), and Janet Wilson (trip card coordinator). Thanks also to Mick Leyland (gear custodian) and Peter Wiles (club archivist and web master).

Tramping Snack Food Competition

The AGM "favourite (preferably made by your own hands) tramping snack food" competition was judged by the masses.



From eleven delectable looking entries, Michael Allerby's "Scroggin Goo" scored the most votes by a narrow margin. This was described as "a good hill buster", from the recipe "a bitta this, a bitta that, mix it all up".

Martin Lawrence's date and ginger slice was voted second, as "soft, yummy, with good texture". Woody Lee's "Kim bab" sushi rice balls were a popular third, and the serving that was cleaned up earliest - perhaps due to the comments that "this one is something you can eat without feeling guilty".



More than a little delectable food items up for grabs here. Photo by Woody Lee.

Scroggin Goo

Winning Snack Recipe from Michael Allerby

Ingredients (more or less):

- 1/4 cup or sunflower kernels
- 1/4 cup of pumpkin seeds
- 1/4 cup of rolled oats
- 1/2 cup of chopped raw mixed nuts
- 1/4 cup of desiccated coconut
- 1/4 cup of chopped dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup of sultanas
- 1/3 cup of chopped dried apricots
- 1/4 cup of chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup of honey
- 1/8 cup of brown sugar
- 100g of butter

Preparation:

1. Grease and line a 20cm square baking tin with baking paper. Set aside.
2. Mix sunflower kernels, pumpkin seeds, rolled oats, nuts, coconut, cranberries, sultanas, apricots and chocolate chips in a bowl. Set aside.
3. Cook the butter, honey and sugar in a small saucepan over a medium heat. Stir constantly until sugar and butter dissolve.
4. Add honey mixture to dry ingredients and mix together. Spoon the mixture into the baking tin evenly and cook in the oven at 180 degrees for 20 to 25 mins.
5. Allow to cool and then cut into squares or rectangles.

Committee

Trip card coordinators:	Janet Wilson, Terry Crippen
Overdue trip contacts:	Mick Leyland, Martin & Anne Lawrence
Membership Enquiries	Anne Lawrence, Eric Liu
Club night coordinator:	Warren Wheeler
Gear custodian:	Mick Leyland
Archivist:	Peter Wiles
Club Advertising:	Dave Grant Richard Lockett
SAR contacts:	Peter Darragh Janet Wilson, Terry Crippen
Snowcraft	Terry Crippen, Bruce van Brunt
Newsletter editor	Tony Gates
Web master	Peter Wiles
Interclub contact	Warren Wheeler

Subs are now due

Membership subscriptions remain the same as last year:

- Full subscription (newsletter mailed out):
\$35.00 individual member
\$45.00 family
- e-subscription (newsletter via the web):
\$25.00 individual member
\$35.00 family

There are a few options for payment:

Complete the enclosed pink slip and either hand in with payment at a club night, or post with cheque to Martin Lawrence, Treasurer, PNTMC, PO Box 1217, PN.

Alternatively you may pay via the internet to PNTMC's account 03-0726-0485393-00, in which case please make sure you include your name with the transfer so it is clear whose sub it is, and email Martin (dahlia44@xtra.co.nz) to let him know you have paid.

Trip Reports

13 Feb 2011

Oroua River- Iron Gates Gorge Report by Peter Kuppe

Members: Peter Kuppe (15yrs), Doug Strachan, Warren Wheeler.

First something about me: My name is Peter Kuppe; I'm an international student from Germany and live at Doug's house. I like hiking, and I do it often in Germany, together with my German parents. We did join a hiking club once, but are no longer active, because the leaders of the group had little children, which turned the group (original 7+), into a 3-, which meant that the trips had to be suitable for pushchairs, which made them boring, of course. This experience had the consequence, that the trip that I'm writing about was a very impressive, new, interesting, exiting, positive experience for me.

Now all the stuff about the trip: Warren's car was very, very old, but it had indeed something aesthetic. Perhaps I'm just not used to old cars, but apart from the windows and the doors, the car worked well. Regarding the fact that there were no seatbelts on the backseats, and that a strange noise sometimes appeared, caused by a nylon-string behind the steering wheel, there were no real big safety risks. For your understanding: I've never seen or heard a car with nylon-strings behind a steering wheel in Germany. I don't care about safety risks and stuff like that, unlike my mother.

After about 40 minutes interesting conversation, mainly held by Doug and Warren, which beyond doubt was connected to my incomplete knowledge of the English language, we finally reached our destination, which was a parking area at the end of Petersons Road, somewhere between Apiti and Rangiwahia. For Computer Freaks I insert a Google Maps Link at this place:

<http://maps.google.co.nz/maps?q=+&oe=UTF-8&ie=UTF8&hl=en&ll=-39.960576,176.006435&spn=0.00094,0.003055&t=h&z=19>

Before driving to the car park, Warren asked a farmer for permission to cross his farmland on the return. At the car park we met some unsuccessful hunters, then we put on our boots and off we went (without Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy). I was introduced to the New Zealand flora, while walking east, following a path through the forest. We crossed a little bridge over a side river and after about 800 meters we reached a rifle range, on Google

earth/maps not to mistaken with an airstrip. Warren & Doug had a quite big knowledge about all those different ferns, trees, and grasses. Most native plants are orange when they are ripe, smell good, look nice and taste terrible. I also tasted peppertree, and tried onga-onga, what was no good idea. In Germany we have nearly the same plant, but a quarter of the size. After maybe 15 minutes walking on a path, that had many traps alongside it, we arrived at Heritage Lodge, where we met another hunter. It/he stunk, and I didn't believe that the toilet behind the hut was very often used. I would only stay there in case of an emergency.

After this short stay, the path did not change very much all the way to the river. It was a wide path, mostly covered and therefore in the shadow, which was definitely good. The weather was good for walking. We crossed a little side stream once or twice, for which we had to descend and climb up again a lot. It made me surprised, when I later saw how small those side streams were, costing us a lot of energy, which was no problem for me, unlike my boots. More about that later. When we reached the river the trip completely changed. Of course we had lunch first- quite a nice place, although we had to share it with some guys on the other side. There was a perfect little natural basin in which the water was deep enough for a little swim. The water was quite cold, but also fresh and cooling. We enjoyed our sandwiches, and the, as I heard, traditional watermelon that Warren carried in his bag plus a few lollies.

The next part is the wet one. We crossed the river every hundred meters, which meant that we were walking in the water most of the time. Also, the water stayed in our shoes for at least a hundred meters, so I had wet feet all the time, which was completely new to me. In Germany we have good tracks, but we would never use rivers to walk in. My boots were, in my opinion (before the trip), quite good. This opinion was, after the trip, completely destroyed. In fact, there was just a mix of gum and papier-mâché in the bottom of the boots. After a few kilometres in the water they began to dissolve.

The weather was supposed to be rainy, according to the forecasters, but there were only 2 big clouds that we could see, and it didn't rain. The gorge had many cliffs on its sides, and they looked unstable, with all those fresh slips. We talked about how valleys become flooded and slipped and so on. Warren encouraged me to sometimes take the leadership and find out where to go. Sometimes it was a bit tricky, because where the river curved, you couldn't see

on which side to walk. One time we even had to turn around and walk back 100 metres!

Now we came to the maybe most interesting part of the trip, the Iron-gate. The river didn't have much water, but at that point, we had to swim. The cool water was quite welcome. The landscape is, indeed, very interesting. We decided to make the way a bit longer and carried on walking down the valley. To go back to the car was difficult. We first climbed a steep hill, because the ladder was behind some bushes, and reached a nice hut on top of a 5 meter cliff at the edge of the river. After that, the path went up and up and up. There was much onga-onga, and sometimes the way through the bushes was not very clear, but in the end we reached the top of the big cliff. Now we were on the farmland, wherefore Warren had asked the farmer. We had to cross perhaps 1 kilometre of sheep-lawns, uphill. Sometimes there were electric fences, which we had to pass. I was interested in the opening- and closing of the fence gates. It took perhaps 20 minutes to cross all the sheep-lawns, and then we reached the car again.

When we stepped over the fences, we noticed counting-mechanisms, which clicked when we stepped on them. We discussed, how you could trick them, and make people think that there are very many people on the track everyday. Driving back was not so interesting as the other way, cause I knew the landscape already. We stopped at the Oroua River, some kilometres down the river, where the water was warmer. The name of this spot was London's Ford. We didn't take a swim though, cause we wanted to stay dry and picked some blackberries instead. We bought ice cream on our way back. It melted easily. It was, after all, a good decision to not take the dog of my host-dad's mother on the walk.

Ok, I think that's enough for this time. I hope my English is not too bad, but my host-dad will correct-read it anyway. I also hope that my German perspective was inspiring or at least understandable.

2-3 April 2011
"Bambi and Mr Trout"
Upper Makaroro Hut
Report and photo by Lance Gray

Thwocka, thwocka, thwocka.... (I guess that sounds like a chopper coming to land). Well, better get the fly out then smiles Warren! At club-night I had convinced myself we were off to the Maropea not the Makaroro so that was a pleasant surprise as I had never been to Upper

Makaroro Hut before. Wrong! It wasn't till we got to the Wakarara carpark that I realised that indeed I had been there, but using a completely different route. Bout time to starting taking proper notice.

I did insist with Warren we take the club tent fly as I love camping and the roar was swinging into action and the huts would surely be full. So off we set to Parks Peak Hut; after successfully negotiating the rather crowded carpark. The initial trail was gentle with Mike turning it into a botany exploration day. Man he knows his plants, spouting all the new and old Latin names – showoff! On the track proper the deer were roaring away their little hearts while we enjoyed many sections of gorgeous bush.

Finally at Parks Peak Hut we found two well ensconced young men with their trusty cannons proudly on display, cigarette in fetching affect and an implied message that they had also bagged this very cute hut as well. After exchanging hut walking times and finding ourselves in the presence of Olympic trail walkers we made our amateurish ways down the steep path to the bright orange accommodation of the Upper Makaroro to find unbelievably a "Vacancy" sign.



Upper Makaroro Hut and misty Makaroro River.

Before we could whip up the no vacancy sign Andy and Jim literally dropped out of the sky with food and supplies for a week of good living. Well, without the women... So camping it was. Yay! Watching Mike cook dinner and Warren erect the fly was hard work, but someone had to supervise. CRACK!! (they must have got one) CRACK !! (they must have missed) CRACK!! (surely this time). You don't question the story when people return with venison but three shots for a single hind?!

After a misty, claggy day the evening showed signs of clearance and at 1am in the morning the views of the stars were magnificent if you

crooked your head round the side of the fly. Mike dreamt of continually losing things which our Freudian analysis revealed was the effect of listening to Warren's brilliant rendition of his Mid-fold Traverse where the mere act of dropping his glasses set off a sequence of ludicrous but equally funny (the further away you get from it) events.

Next morning was straightforward: down the river to Barlow Hut. The obstacle course that was the Makaroro River was made interesting by how many pieces of the SS Baden-Powell we could spot. These being bright orange pieces of plastic from someones misguided attempt at tubing (Scouts we decided). Normal flows are simply too small as we only had two waist deep wades in our four hours. The river features a number of magnificent slips all in various stages of slippage to re-generation, encouraged of course by Bambi who was everywhere. In fact we found traces of Bambi in places that made little sense unless Bambi is big into freestyle rock-climbing. Mr Trout was also lots of fun to spot.

Lunch in the sun at Barlow was followed by a very pleasant ramble back to Mike's waka and home. A big thankyou to Warren for his leadership and Mike for his endless knowledge of plants.

We were Warren Wheeler, Mike Allerby and Lance Gray.

13 March 2011

Hinerua Hut

Report by Janet Wilson

Photo by Martin Lawrence

Access to Hinerua Hut is via Mill Road and the Tukituki River. None of us had been there before but trip leader Martin Lawrence assured us he had good route information from someone who had.

The sign at the start of the track warned the route on the farmland was unmarked and should only be attempted by "experienced trampers". Armed with compasses, maps, a GPS, experience and plenty of confidence, we set forth. Not far up the river, on the far bank, we spotted a sign to Hinerua Hut. Completely disregarding the arrow on the sign (it pointed to a steep scrubby bluff with no apparent track) and the GPS which seemed to be behaving strangely, some of the group cast around in the scrub looking for a track. I convinced Anne (or did we convince each other) that the correct spur was further up river. Anyway we finally got it

sorted, believed the GPS, went back down river to the sign where Anne found, and pushed, a very indistinct track up the bluff and we were on our way.

The cloud lifted as we walked up a grassy paddock, then passed through a dense scrubby band, fortunately on a narrow, slightly marked trail. We finally lost the trail and had a rather damp thrash through the scrub before emerging back on to the grassland, not far from the bush edge and start of the proper track.

Once on the real track it was easy going. After some discussion we stopped for lunch before reaching the hut as time was getting on and some of us seemed to have missed out on morning tea! A little further along - where you turn off the ridge towards the hut - the track deviates from that shown on the map which caused the compass to come out for a quick check on direction. It was then not far to the hut (nice standard hut in good condition) where we had a photo stop before retracing our steps back to the park boundary.

The trip back down was painless - found the correct track all the way through the scrub band - had a quick afternoon tea while we were high enough for good views and then followed an easy farmland route back down to the river. Then there was the final uphill grunt back to the car to finish. A nice, slightly adventurous walk.



PNTMC at Hinerua Hut.

We were Richard Lockett, Woody Lee, Janet Wilson, Gen, Martin (leader) and Anne Lawrence.

Tramping recipes

Martin's date and ginger slice

This moist, tasty slice was runner up in the tramping snack food competition. Martin kindly agreed to share the recipe.

2 eggs
¾ cup raw sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract
¾ cup self raising flour
400g whole pitted dates (left whole)
1 cup walnut pieces, chopped
½ cup crystallised ginger, chopped

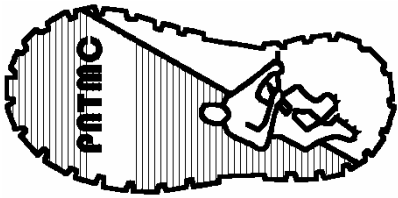
Beat eggs, sugar and vanilla for 5 minutes till pale and fluffy. Fold in sifted flour. Fold in remaining ingredients, stirring just enough to combine.

Spoon mixture into a 17 x 27 cm slice tin lined with baking paper. Bake at 180^o C for 35-40 minutes or until firm and golden brown.

Leave in tin to cool then lift out as a slab. Slice into squares or bars.

NOTES:

- Do not worry that the mixture is very thick. It does work but you do need to spread it evenly over the tin.
- Gluten free flour and baking powder can be used instead of the self raising flour.
- Keeps well in sealed container – will last for a week or more and still taste OK.



Palmerston North
Tramping and
Mountaineering Club
Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217,
Palmerston North

PNTMC Newsletter

May 2011

What's inside this month?

- *Upcoming trips and club events*
- *Reports of the recent AGM*
- *Trip Reports – Iron Gates Gorge, Upper Makaroro, Hinerua Hut*
- *Winners of the snack food competition*

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!

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