



# Wellington Tramping & Mountaineering Club Inc.

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Now that the weather is cooling down, the days are getting shorter and you haven't quite started training for those winter epics, you will have time to sort out your slides, get your photos developed and write up some of your trips....RIGHT???

I must admit, that for the first time, it did take a bit of wingeing and scrounging on my part in order to flesh out this newsletter! But with couple of last minute contributions and some help from one of our favourite regulars, we have another solid newsletter for your reading enjoyment.

*Thanks Ally*

## 2003 Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM went smoothly, ably officiated by Sue Walsh. There are plenty of familiar faces on the 2003-2004 committee. We welcome Andrew, Glynne, John, Sylvia and Pete who are familiar faces about club to the Tuesday night brigade! For a full listing of the club officers, check out the back page. Just a reminder, that committee meetings are open to all club members and that you are welcome to come along and participate.

The Assistant Chief Guide position was not filled. This led to a bit of discussion. The club has grown so much over the past few years, it is more important than ever that clubbies find some way to help out and put something back into the club. The high levels of activity are only possible because of the efforts of many volunteers. The e-team, promotions and Chief Guide's subcommittee are always on the lookout for a few more people to share the workload. If you think you can be of some assistance talk to a committee member near you.

*For a full description of the Assistant Chief Guide role, see page 3.*



## Along the Chief Guide's Trail



Summer has passed and the autumnal temperatures are coming as a shock, yet the air is clearer, the wind and the rain less frequent. I hope you're getting the opportunity to explore the hills.

It's the time of the AGM and with it I'm stepping aside from the Chief Guide role as my university study gets into full gear, but I would like to thank a band of merry helpers. Throughout the year Becky has looked after the Assistant Chief Guide's role and filled in while I holidayed. Also a sub committee of Gerard Galvin (Huts), Andrew McLellan (SAR), Toby Regan (Skiing) and Paul Abbott (Transport Money) have done many tasks behind the scenes to keep the club ticking. There is also

thanks to Stuart Palmer, Gerard Galvin, Wayne Stevens and others for the work with the new Mountain House shelter. I write this as I get ready to head into the Tararuas on a work party for the shelter.

Coming up are many opportunities to head into the hills - the new schedule has been finalised. Take a look and think about the trips ahead before the time rapidly passes you by. Hoping you all have fun in the hills and wishing Andrew Chisholm all the best in the coming year as Chief Guide.

*See ya Grant*

## April 17-21 - Easter Weekend

This Easter the bus heads north to Te Urewera National Park with John Hickey leading a group paddling on Lake Waikaremoana, while Helen McDermott leads a group of trampers into the Lake Waikareiti area. Down south Sylvia leads a trip to Nelson Lakes and a bunch of 10-day trips are set to take place to incorporate ANZAC weekend. Your truly sets forth on Stewart Island for the North West Circuit, while Stuart Douce heads almost as far south with a group for the Dusky track. Closer to the middle of the South Island, Simon Ward and Yibai He lead trips from Arthurs Pass to Lewis Pass - Yibai's trip is a fit trip in search or gnarly terrain, while Simon goes soft in search of hot pools.

## April 24-27 - Anzac Weekend

ANZAC weekend sees the club bus head to Tongariro National Park with 3 options on offer. The Tongariro Northern Circuit offers an easy graded trip led by Peter Bates, while the medium group led by Paul Hughes will head around Mt Ruapehu. For those looking for day trips, then the lodge will be available for use as a convenient base. Back closer to town, the Sunday Walkers head around Wairaka Point from Plimmerton to Pukerua Bay.

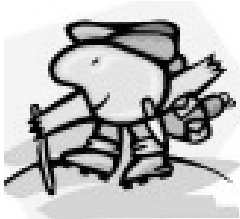
## May 2-4 - Wellington Based Day Trips

The new trip schedule starts with a variety of day trips around Wellington. There are two day walks, rock climbing, sea kayaking, mountain biking and the Sunday Walkers head to Belmont Regional Park. For those looking to improve their tramping skills there is a risk management course run by the Mountain Safety Council

## May 9-11 - Ruahine FP

This weekend we head into one of our regular spots in the Tararuas with 3 tramps on offer and a day trip to practise the navigation skills. This weekend sees the beginning of the work parties for the rebuilding of Mountain House.

## May 16-18 - Kaweka FP



The southern end of the Kaweka ranges offers some great tramping this weekend. The steep climb to Kiwi Saddle hut offers good views for the easy/medium group, while the mediums carry along the tops before descending to Kiwi Mouth Hut. Those keen fit punters have the opportunity for the excellent Back Ridge circuit. Closer to home Sue Walsh leads a trip to Mana Island for some exploring and tree planting - you can come along for the day or stay the Saturday night on the island.

## May 23-25 - Tararua FP

Heading in from Mangaterere there are 3 trips on offer. The easy medium trip heads into Totara Flats to see the new hut, while the medium/fit group head into Cone via Cone Ridge and finally the fits head into Neil Forks Hut. On the other side of the range Wendy Shuker leads a day walk around the Kapakapanui circuit.

## May 30-June 2-Queen's Birthday Weekend

The last long weekend for a while. Get in quick to book, as this weekend is always possible. This year we head to Abel Tasman to catch it while its quiet and to Nelson Lakes National Park. In Abel Tasman NP, there is the easy coastal track for the trampers and two sea kayak options based on fitness level. Further South in Nelson Lakes NP there are a variety of tramps and maybe some time in the snow. The easy/medium trip heads to the stunning Blue Lake, the medium tackle the Speargrass track with a detour up Mt Misery while a medium alpine trip heads to Angelus and through to the Hopeless via Sunset Saddle. The medium/fit trip tackles the spectacular Moss Pass while the fits tackle some alpine rock with a climb of Kahu peak and then Mt Travers.

## Wanted!- Assistant Chief Guide

Are you a cheerful friendly face, have a reasonable amount of experience, a regular attendee at club meetings?

### We need you!

-Duties include: maintaining trip sheets on the trip board, keeping track of trip numbers, organizing the SAR contact for each weekend, helping to put together the trip schedule and providing help and advice to punters and leaders on routes and gear etc.

If you think you can help out with this key role or are willing to take on any one of these responsibilities please speak to Andrew Chisholm, Becky Austin or Ruth Parnell.

## City to Sea Walkway-March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003

Slip, slap slop was certainly the order of the day; "are you drinking heaps?" the constant mantra. Not only was it hot, but perhaps unusually for Wellington, it was also humid as 7 of us gathered outside the railway station and gradually zig-zagged our way along the 12 kms of the City to Sea Walkway, ending at Island Bay.

As newcomers to New Zealand and Wellington, this seemed to be a great way of learning more about the area, piecing together the bits we'd started to get to know, and so it proved to be.

Starting at Bolton Street Memorial Park, ancient and modern were quickly apparent as we passed the site of many of the re-sited graves to make way for the motorway. We discussed the thought-provoking sculptures in the Botanic Gardens and stopped for a few minutes at the Peace Flame garden. The Sundial of Human Involvement showed the correct time as we gratefully reached more level ground and admired the view of the harbour from the top of the cable car incline.

From here the walk took in another old cemetery and linked together parks, sports-fields and bush - were we really so close to the centre of the capital city? One of the most interesting views was from Boyd Wilson Field as the eye took in Vivian Street down into the valley and continued up Pirie Street and up to the top of the town belt in one continuous parallel line. Central Park offered some welcome shade where Ray pointed out nikau palms and the difference between mamaku and silver leaf tree ferns. The meths drinkers near the entrance to the park prompted us to carry on uphill before stopping for a leisurely lunch in the shade.

More up and down took us above Mount Cook, Newtown and Berhampore as we melted in the afternoon heat, stopping for a chat on the way with another WTMC member and his family. The steepest part of the walk came next, ending at the dizzy height of about 180 metres - the highest point of the day. The 360 degree views from the stone powhenua just beyond the Tawatawa trig point were extensive, from the Tararuas in the North, across the Cook Strait to the Kaikouras in the south. Downhill all the way at last, well almost - we just had to hop over the ridge between Owhiro Bay and Island Bay. By this time water bottles were being re-filled from unsuspecting owners of garden taps close to the road.

Finally we flopped into the nearest dairy for more thirst quenchers and cooling ice-creams as we waited for the bus to take us back to the railway station. An excellent walk - any hotter and it would have had to be graded Medium!

Many thanks to Ruth for keeping us all on track and to everyone for great company

Cath and Paul Exley

## Tararua Magic!

### FRIDAY:

After negotiating a tedious traffic jam we finally arrived at Otaki Forks at dusk. We were lucky to have a clear starry night. We marched up to Field in a couple of hours. Had a little break & went on to Kime. The moon was half full giving ample light above the treeline. At one stage we could see Otaki, Masterton & Wellington, the lights shimmering in the distance.

### SATURDAY:

I woke early to the smells of bacon & eggs being fried up. At first I thought Raymond SC was preparing breaky! Not to be, it was the DOC contractors having a fry up. They had been painting the hut. After breaky & a chinwag with the other hut occupants we set out. We stepped outside to clear sunny skies & asked is this really the Tararuas? We could see the route ahead. It was going to be a long day. It was up down & up down & up down anyway you get the idea. After negotiating the Tararua peaks & the new ladder ( not bad ) we got to Mangahuka hut at about 1pm. A delightful little hut tucked away from the wind which was now getting up. Good old SC needed a little siesta & a couple of fags. Finally a good feed & then off.

Was it better not to see the main range because you saw how far you had to go? Or was it better just to marvel at this splendid range that rarely enjoys such ideal conditions?

Before long we came across the easies! Glynne, Trish & another. They had come from Powell. After a quick inspection of Glynne's pack for alcohol we decided it was safe for them to proceed.

More up & down & more. The legs were beginning to feel it. Yet slowly but surely we edged towards that Anderson's hut. The sun was getting lower & the colours more intense. As I left the tops & descended into the bush, I noticed some bright orange. On first glance I thought it was someone's pack liner. Only there were many... As I got closer I could see it was the last of the sun. Truly magnificent, shining through the moss covered trees. Through the fading light the hut was a welcome sight. SC was still an hour behind!

The hut was occupied with some hardcore hunters, who were airlifted in & out! Well as you can imagine they had all the provisions, cold beers (whoops!), fresh meat etc. These hunters could snore & that's saying something with SC in the hut as well. I'm sure the hut moved.

### SUNDAY:

In the morning the cloud rolled in & the Tararuas looked a little more familiar. A scramble down to Waitawaewae for lunch, a swim (yes was still a little water there), Up & down then out to Otaki Forks. The legs were feeling it, though that mattered none, what a great trip!

**Punters Emile & Raymond SC**

## Tararuas (16-20 March)

When you're still glowing from the trip of a lifetime in South Westland just a few days ago you don't really need to go tramping. But if Ann is away and the Tararuas are fine and Nigel calls from mid Waiohine and says he and Graham are going up to Aokaparangi you might just have a look at the forecast and pack and head for Putara. And when the cloud clears at Herepai in the evening and the full moon is right there behind the cabbage tree in front of the hut, you might think, this wasn't such a bad idea was it?

And the next afternoon when everything has clagged in again and you're somewhere between West Peak and Arete, you might think, well if nothing else this is good navigation practice. When you drop off the ridge in 30m visibility saying to yourself I reckon Arete Biv must be down here somewhere, and the biv appears out of the mist right ahead, you might think, I did that pretty well didn't I. But after you've put your pack inside and you're wanting a brew and you can't remember where the tarn is because you've never stayed here you might walk ten minutes in the obvious direction finding nothing, and you might think, a dry night at Arete Biv won't be that much fun. Unless you happen to bump into the tarn on the way back, in which case you might think, great - but now where's that darned bivv?

And at 2am when you wake for a pee and the cloud has cleared and there is Bannister right out the door in the moonlight you might think, WOW, and try a bulb exposure. In the morning when it's better still and the whole Wairarapa is under cloud but right here on Arete is the pink first glow of breathless day, you might pull your boots on in a hurry without socks and expose a whole film before breakfast and think, this is my sixteenth roll this year and it's only March, is this becoming an expensive hobby or what?

And when you've cruised down past Te Matawai and you still have a couple of nights' food in your pack and you find a marker on a tree saying Otaki River, you might think this'll do me. Paddling down the infant Otaki, you might say to yourself, why didn't I come this way ever before? And camped beside the stream with a carefully contoured hip hole underneath, as you nod off you might think, when a chap has a Thermarest and a little tent and his boots for a pillow in a place like this, there isn't too much else he could ask for, anyway not anything I can think of right now!

In the morning when it's fine you might be disappointed because you hoped for cloud to diffuse the light in the bush, but you might go on down the river anyway and still find so many reasons to use your camera and tripod that when you reach Waitawaewae the day is used up, even though Merv Rogers' guide book said it should take four hours. And when you look in the hut window and see Nigel and Graham whom you thought were at Carkeek or points east, and a couple of others as well, you realise some of them might have a car at the Forks. And next day after you've photographed the old log hauler in the Waitatapia which you missed last time because you'd run out of film, and these two girls catch you at the Forks having gone a whole lot faster, you might think, I had a pretty good time anyway.

Well you might think something like that.

## John Rhodes

## Our Trip to Paua Hut

We went to Paua Hut on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December. It took two hours to walk through the beautiful bush to the Hut. We had to cross the river. Our shoes and socks got wet and the current pushed us but we loved it.

There was no power, but there was gas to cook with and we lit a fire. We toasted marshmallows, YUM!!!

We slept on bunks in our sleeping bags. There was a rope swing and there was a long-drop toilet - pooh smelly!!!

It was so cool tramping in the bush. Josy, can we have marshmallows on sticks next year?

By Ben van Woerkom (5 & three quarter years old)



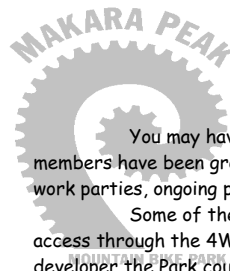
## It's tough walking through those doors for the first time!

Can you help us out by offering to man the door to welcome and advise potential new members?

It's a great way to get involved in club activities, especially if you are new too!

**All you need to do is tell them about the club and smile!**

**See Lee-Ann at club and put your name on the door roster!**



## Makara Peak - FOR SALE?

You may have heard that the Makara Peak mountainbike park needs some help right now. WTMC members have been great supporters of the park - with attendance at some of the earliest groundbreaking work parties, ongoing pest control and the occasional ride.

Some of the land within the Park is privately owned. The current owners have generously allowed access through the 4WD tracks that cross their land. The owners now want to sell that land. If sold to a developer the Park could be split in two.

Without this "Missing Piece" of land, tracks like Sally Alley can't be completed. Other planned tracks can't be started. Worse still, nothing could stop a new owner from refusing existing access or building on the land. Healthy regenerating bush and community plantings are also under threat.

The Makara Peak Supporters are looking at ways to purchase the land in partnership with the Council. The Supporters target is to raise \$30 000 by the end of March. We already have pledges for \$26 000.

We need your commitment as a Park user. You can either pledge or donate some money using the form below or pledge online at [www.mountainbike.co.nz/places/makarapeak/privateland.html](http://www.mountainbike.co.nz/places/makarapeak/privateland.html)

Don't delay. Makara Peak needs you. Thanks for your continuing support.

Name:
Address:
Email:

### Pledge:

I pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Makara Peak Supporters for the purpose of assisting the Supporters, along with the Wellington City Council, to purchase the "Missing Piece" of land for inclusion within the Park.

OR

### Donation

I enclose a donation to the Makara Peak Supporters of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of assisting the Supporters, along with the Wellington City Council, to purchase the "Missing Piece" of land for inclusion within the Park.

If the purchase of the land does not occur, or for any reason my donation in whole or in part is not required for the purchase (Delete one of the following) **Either**

*My donation can to be used for the Supporters general purposes*

Or

*Please return my donation to me.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose this form with your payment. Make cheques payable to Makara Peak Supporters. Receipts will be issued for donations. Post to Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park Supporters Inc, PO Box 17-095, Karori, Wellington.

## New Members:

The following new members were approved at the last committee meeting. Welcome to the fold!

John Harrison  
16 John Whitton Dr, Chartwell  
ph: 479 7449 wk: 462 8749  
email: john.harrison@ngc.co.nz

Tina Chong  
PO Box 2199  
wk phone: 801 4204  
email: tina.chong@wcc.govt.nz

## Not Just Tea and Biccies! The Social Convenor's Corner

*Glynne will be taking over the role of master of ceremonies on Wednesday Nights! I am sure he will be thoroughly entertaining and it will make nice cups of tea! Thanks again to Katja, for rounding up some great talks!*



**16<sup>th</sup> April:** Social evening, meet up with your fellow punters for the Easter/Anzac trips, pick up gear and have a cuppa!

**23<sup>rd</sup> April:** No presentation as most people will be off in the hills, the hall will be open so that you can exchange and return gear

**30<sup>th</sup> April:** Slide Medley Evening. Bring along a few slides to entertain us with your adventures! If you want to participate, get in touch with Glynne.

**7<sup>th</sup> May:** Still free... got any ideas, speak to Glynne!

**14<sup>th</sup> May:** A *white* Kepler Christmas and a *Greenstone*/Caples New Year, Lisa Tinkley and Ruth Parnell did some classic tramping (and doubtless some icebreaker modelling) in the Fiordland/Wakatipu area

**21<sup>st</sup> May:** Kevin Irwin talks about a 7 month expedition from Victoria British Columbia to Juno Alaska and back! He will show a selection of the 1700 slides he took on this epic trip. A must for all sea-kayaking fans!

**28<sup>th</sup> May:** Cycling the Silk Road, Alan Orpin will entertain us with tales of his pedal powered travels along one of Asia's most ancient trade routes. For centuries, this was the main conduit for goods, religion, thought and invading powers between Asia and the West.

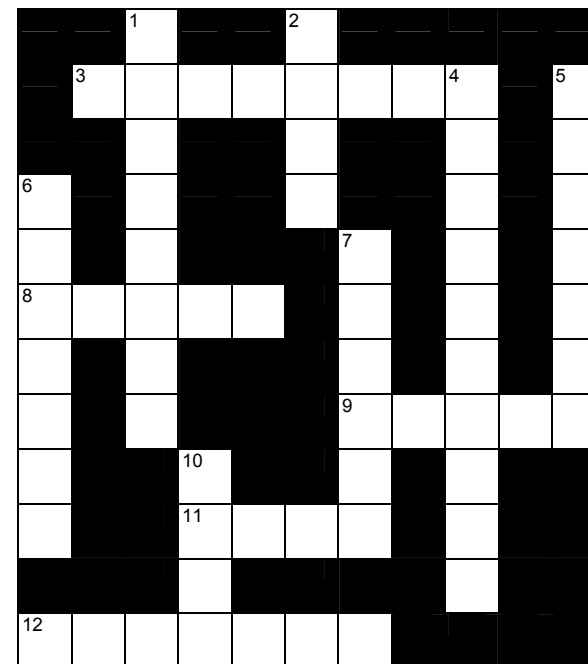
Don Goodhue has promised us a presentation and Katja is chasing up a few more shows. As always, if you have any ideas or a few slides of your own, talk to Glynne!

Thanks for a great year,

Simon

## Saily Boats

What with the excitement of the America's Cup, Stuart Palmer's upcoming sailing trip in the sounds, Roger's Bolam's harbour antics and quite a few clubbies getting interested in sailing, I thought it might be a nice idea for the crossie!



### Across

3. Preferred footwear for the 'LOYAL'
8. Misbehave and you walk this!
9. The French word for beehive
11. Sailor's greeting
12. What's your star sign?

### Down

1. Stern discipline for the seven seas
2. Left (is Sue Walsh a leftie?)
4. Puffy sail, mostly used for showing off
5. Get Knotted!
6. Bottom's Up!
7. A vitamin C deficiency
10. This crucial part was a bit flimsy on team NZ's boat

## Wayne's Rave

The past month has been another busy month for the club. The work building a new public shelter at Mountain House has resulted in many club members giving up a number of weekends for this project. At first I was a bit worried about whether we would have enough helpers for this project. However, we have had a good turn out on all of the working parties. It is pleasing to see how this project has come together; as well it has been quite a bit of fun. Stuart and Gerard have done a great job at coordinating and leading this project as well as overseeing all the clubbies that have contributed on the work parties.

It is great that in the last couple of years we have built this shelter (to replace the rundown Mtn House) and have fixed up Smiths Creek. I remember a couple of years ago talking to DoC about these huts and being told that they were a disgrace - well, these days DoC staff think what our club has done is absolutely fantastic. It's great to work with DoC (with the support of others such as the Lotteries Commission) to tidy up two of the most rundown/rubbish holes in the Tararuas. Excellent - well done everyone!

The AGM has now been and gone. Thanks to those who have volunteered to help on committee this year. We are still looking for an assistant chief guide. If you are interested please let our new Chief Guide - Andrew Chisholm know. Alternatively, if you are not able to take on this role in full but are able to help out - for instance by doing just one of the tasks that the assistant chief guide does (eg putting trip lists up on the notice board), then this will be a great help. Please get in touch with Andrew if you can help. If we don't find an assistant we may need to look at other options - such as scaling back some club activities in order to make the Chief Guide role more manageable.

It's always a shame when summer comes to an end. However, in many ways it will be nice to have some cooler weather when tramping. I think it's been a good summer this year - think on just about every tramping trip I've been on we have ended up swimming in the rivers or the sea (on a few occasions I've actually found it too hot for tramping).

**Wayne**

## Gossip Column

-Anne and Phil Kendon have a new addition to their family. Lauren is Tara's new baby sister.

-Stephen Patience has decided to retire from the e-team after many years of dedication. He has been the driving force behind the development of the Club's award winning website. I think everyone will agree that the web is a fantastic resource for clubbies as well as one the best ways of promoting the club and attracting new members. With Shane Connolly as webmaster, the rest of the e-team are set to continue the good work. If anyone has a bit of know-how and is interested in helping out-please contact them at e-team@wtmc.org.nz.

-Mountain house shelter is no more! The old hut has gone and a new shelter has been erected. Many thanks to all those who helped. A special thanks to Stuart Palmer and Gerard Galvin who worked so hard to get the ball rolling and coordinate the working parties! In late May to early June, we will have a bonfire/BBQ to burn the heap of old timber-all that is left of the old hut. Listen out for the date and come along!

## Crossword Answers

1)KEELHAUL, 2) PORT, 3) REDSOCKS, 4) SPINNACKER, 5) BOWLINE, 6) CAPSIZE, 7) SCURVY, 8) PLANK, 9) RUCHE, 10) MAST, 11) AHOY, 12) SEXTANT

### Club Officers 2003-2004

President	Wayne Stevens
Vice President	Ruth Parnell
Vice President	Sue Walsh
Secretary	John Hoffeins
Treasurer	Eva Lottemoser
Chief Guide	Andrew Chisholm
Asst. Chief Guide	
Social Convenor	Glynn Lloyd
Newsletter Editor	Ally Clark
Journal Editor	Grant Newton
Promotions Officer	Lee-Ann Mitchell
Ruapehu Maintenance	Ian Bunckenburg
Transport Officer	Sylvia Jorgenson
Membership Officer	John Hickey
Gear Custodian	Trish Knox
Committee Member	Pete Silverwood
Committee Member	Simon Ward
Committee Member	Becky Austin

