



the Mouth'n'Ear



Newsletter of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club



Our President escapes the harsh winter weather

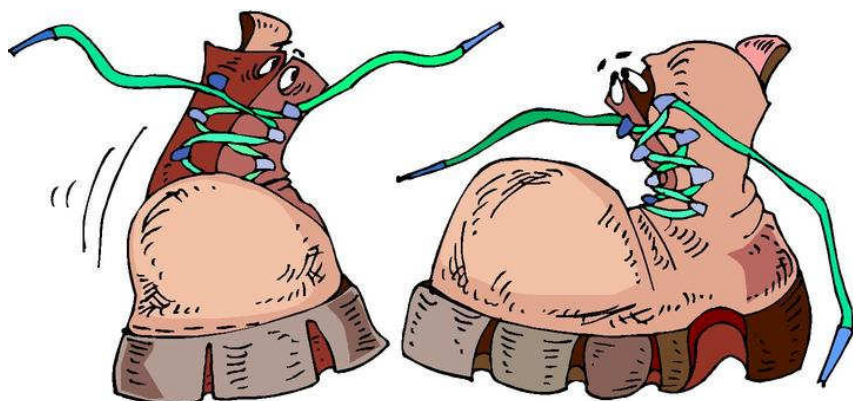
In this July issue: Reports from Membership, Lodge, Transport, Gear Officers; Vosseler to Penn Creek Hut (Tararua FP); FMC News and AGM Report.

Deadline August Newsletter: 14 August

Send contributions to newsletter@wtmc.org.nz, or PO Box 5068 Wellington.

Topographical Turpitude

with the Chief Guide



Spring trip planning meeting is 6:30pm Monday 27th for 2hrs at TTC Club rooms all welcome to give any ideas you may have. I am looking forward to creating a great spring schedule. Food supplied for the meeting.

July 31-Aug 2:

Day [E]
Day [E/M]
Day [F]

Day Trips

Mt Climie
Ridge Track Kaitoke Waterworks
Rimutaka Incline and Return

John Hickey

Leader Required

Leader Required

Aug 7-9:

Instr [F]
Tramp [E]
Tramp [M]
ALP2 [M/F]
Cycle [E/M]
Day [E]
Ski [All]
Instruction [All]

Mt Taranaki / AIC

AIC - Snow 3
Lake Dive
Waiaua Gorge Hut
Kapuni Lodge
Round The Mountain
Turakirae Head
Maunganui Club Field
Risk Management

Sharron Came & David Jewell

Leader Required

Leader Required

Leader Required

Anna Lambrechtsen

Michael Lightbourne

Sam Kempthorne

Mountain Safety Council

Aug 14 -16:

Tramp [E]
ALP1 [M]
ALP1 [M/F]

Nelson Lakes

John Tait Hut
Mt Angelus
Mt McKay

(Three Day Weekend)

Paul Andrews

Craig Bellhouse

Sharron Came

Wellington Day Trips

Day [E Family] Matua/Somes Island

Ailsa Chisholm

LODGE UPDATE

The new look lounge is a big hit with lodge users to date, and after seeing it myself I think it looks great! The movable chairs are fantastic and the carpet makes a huge difference to the feel and look of the lounge area. The solstice crowd moved all the dining tables onto the carpeted area so the lino could be used as a dance floor and this worked extremely well. We hope you all enjoy the versatility the new lounge now provides.

Some Reminders

Pillow cases

Please remember to bring pillow cases with you when you come up to the lodge. Pillow cases are needed for hygienic reasons. I'm sure you don't want to sleep on a pillow that someone else has dribbled on....

H1N1 Swine Flu

Please exercise common sense over the winter season in the lodge.

Hand sanitizers have been bought for the bathrooms and the kitchen.

Please be extra vigilant around food. If you are rostered on to prepare, cook or serve food and you have a cold or flu like symptoms, please swap with someone else.

Lodge Reps

If you are the lodge rep and are unsure of any of the opening or closing procedures of the lodge, please don't guess at what needs to be done. In the storeroom by the telephone is a list of lodge sub-committee members. Please call one of the listed sub-committee members with your query. We would rather you ask questions than make a guess and incorrectly open or, more importantly, close down the lodge.

Membership and the Lodge

We've received some queries as to when member rates apply at the lodge.

Obviously member rates apply if you are a member, however:

if you are a member, but your partner and or children are not in the categories of associate member and or family member, they pay non-member rates.

An Associate member is the partner of a member but does not have to complete three qualifying trips. To become an Associate member, the member writes to/emails the Membership Officer requesting their partner be accepted as an Associate Member. This goes to committee for approval.

If you have children who are under the age of 18, you can apply for family membership via a letter/email. You need to state the names and birth dates of the children. This goes to

committee for approval. Family membership ceases when the child/ren turn 18. One rate applies for family membership no matter how many children.

Ski Week - August

Please note there was a mistake in the winter schedule for the lodge.

August 9 - 13 is the Club Ski Week (open to members and their friends) instead of August 2-6. Please alter your schedule accordingly.

And finally, we have plenty of snow up on the mountain now so don't miss out! Book in for some fabulous skiing, tobogganing, climbing, or whatever takes your fancy. We have a great facility on the mountain for your use, so please, book in and make use of it.

Sue Walsh
Lodge Convenor

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We welcome 2 new senior members and a family member this month:

Angela Gilbert
Toby Gilbert
Russ Tricker

We are also working on a 2009 Members contact list - it will be with you soon!

Any questions about membership of the WTMC please find me at the club on a Wednesday night or contact me on: membership@wtmc.org.nz

Jenny

TRANSPORT

The club is still wishing to attract more volunteers to help with driving the club vans on weekend trips. We currently have just 32 people out of a club membership of almost 400 adults approved to drive the vans. We would like to get this number to at least 50 as soon as possible. This will help to share the driving duties so that no one person would need to drive the van for a period of more than 3 hours in one stretch. To become a vetted driver all you need to do is go to the club website and print off a copy of the Driver Form under Downloads-Forms-WTMC Driver Form. Complete this short form and attach a photocopy of your Drivers Licence and give to myself at club night or email to transport@wtmc.org.nz If you have any questions about the responsibilities involved with driving our 12 seater Manual Ford Transit vans please speak to me or send me an email and I will happily answer any concerns.

From the Transport Officer

Club First Aid Kits - Recent Changes

You may have noticed that the club first aid kits now look different. The lunch boxes have been changed over to soft packs. This makes them a little easier to pack in your pack. Sorry that they aren't any lighter, but also they aren't any heavier. They also aren't waterproof (neither were the lunchboxes), so if this worries you we also have some DoC garbage bags that they fit neatly in to - just ask for one when you are collecting gear.

The contents have also changed slightly. The eye loop has gone (if you don't know what that is, don't worry as it is not for you anyway). As has the needle (there are still safety pins). The additions are some betadine (good to stop scratches/cuts/gashes going too septic), over the counter pain killers, optiflex (a stay-dry wound dressing covering for those out where it might be wet). There are also some minor changes to dressing and bandages that you probably won't notice.

You will need a knife or good teeth to break the seal to get in to the first aid kit (yes I did test it and I can get it open in a few minutes with deprived-country-girl teeth so town teeth should be just fine). We seal them so we know when they have been opened as some people forget to tell us. Check out the seal and know you have what is needed to break it before you head out.

I recommend doing an outdoors first aid course (these are noted on the trip schedules). Any questions or suggestions on the first aid kits see me. It goes without saying that if you use one or it gets wet, let the person on the gear cupboard know.

A big thank you to Louise Hargreaves for all the time and help she gave to this.

Marie Henderson, Gear Custodian
gear@wtmc.org.nz

Newsletter

From this issue, the Mouth'n'Ear will also be published on the club's website. If you would prefer to receive email notification when the newsletter and other club publications are put on the website, instead of receiving printed copies in the mail, send an email to newsletter@wtmc.org.nz.

The views expressed in the articles in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club. Any queries or comments should be directed to the writer of the article.

All published trip reports (or other written articles) are in the draw to win a \$20 book voucher!

Steve Austin takes the June voucher for his Nelson Lakes trip report. No draw was required, because Steve's report was the only entry. See how easy it is to win \$20!

Vosseler – Penn Creek Hut

M/F Tramp – June 12 to 14

by Hans Wiskerke

It's winter, the Tararuas lie waiting to be visited, the WTMC trip list indicates several tramps for the weekend but the rain gods might have something up their sleeve. In fact, one of the club's best known rain gods earlier declined an offer to lead the trip because of the lousy forecast. Thinking back after the trip, that very decision may have resulted in us (Gareth, Simon, Bernie and Hans) having a relatively dry weekend. Later we understood the weather in Wellington has been awful that weekend, hasn't it?

Being transport officer, Gareth arranged one of the 12-seater vans for us, but not after querying if some smaller transport options might be available. Anyway, a quick platform 9 start and limited traffic on the road meant we could enjoy F&C in Waikanae at 7 pm. Apparently the smorgasbord (Swedish word for a buffet style meal) means in Chinese something as 'leftovers from last week'. The chips were OK although Bernie was warned not to eat too many of them, so we happily helped him to avoid excessive carbo-loading. Lots of eighties-songs later we lost connection with The Breeze FM, but fortunately our memories could fill in the gap and many historic TV-series, icons and music passed along. Actually a shame we did not make it to the lodge party for Solstice weekend.

One nearly missed turn-off and possibly a hedgehog (sorry!) later we found the parking at Otaki Forks, filled in the intentions book and went up the track to Tim, who was one of the names jotted down earlier in the book, and walked up before us with a mate. About two hours after we set off we found a warm hut, one very excited dog and a smaller and more sedate version. Tim turned out to be a nice chap, so we had a good chat on the quality of F&C (he turned out to run a shop in P'umu beach). In the meantime Hans concluded the track up to Field Hut is not the ideal way to break in your new shoes, or was it the lack of recent tramps (too much cycling?) that led to a large blister on each heel?

The Saturday forecast promised better weather later in the day, and indeed we had a perfectly clear sky when we did the dishes at 9 pm. During daylight we walked up the Judd ridge towards Kime hut, across a few patches of snow, but just short of the hut we turned east at Bridge Peak to follow a poled route towards Boyd-Wilson knob, Vosseler, then Yates and McIntosh. Difficult to see which was which due to some clouds and an occasional drop of rain, but we had no problem in finding the turn-off to Penn Creek hut. Dropping slightly to around 1000 metres we spend about an hour in a green velvet world of overgrown trees, thick mossy carpets and silence (apart from the occasional laughter of elves and goblins). In this dark green and foggy world we only could keep our bearings thanks to numerous orange triangles. The scenery evolved to the usual Tararua forest, the sound of the river grew stronger, and with 20 minutes of daylight left we reached the hut. Slightly unfortunate, the only river crossing (Penn Creek) of the day is 1 minute away from the hut. On a positive note, our shoes were clean again.

The hut is tucked away from main routes and had not seen any visitors in the last 2 months, and even not many during the summer period. Imagine buying your annual backcountry hut pass, have your groceries chopped in every two months (does New World offer that service yet?), and write that book you were never able to in the busy city? Or get some speedy internet connection and get rich doing arbitrage on sports betting, which Simon explained to us. One thing needs to be changed however: the oversized chimney. While smoking is prohibited in pubs, being smoked is hard to avoid in this hut. After a good curry and a huge chunk of fudge cake, the evening ended with a rather complicated card game. Rules, strategy, luck and nearly two hours to finish one round!

The recipe for Sunday was quite easy: along the creek, up the slope to Table Tops, then turn right to Field Hut (in time for a good lunch break) and down the track back to parking. While it was a bit windy on the main range and markedly colder than Saturday, it was still pleasant winter tramping weather. On the way down from Field Hut we even saw some blue sky and a bit of a view. Currently DOC is upgrading the lower parts of the track (access for buggies?), but as we passed after the digger and before the seal was put on, this fun section was classified as 'Heavenly Mud' by Bernie. Sliding down the slope we reached the Waiotauru river to clean our boots, before we were allowed anywhere near the van. Although the idea of a warm coffee on the way back was appealing, the prospect of a warm shower was even better. So two days and 15 walking hours later we were back at platform 9, and very close to the shower. Conclusion: good and rewarding tramp, but suggest to have a healthy relation with your shoes before setting off.

FMC AGM 09

(or the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Annual General Meeting 2009 in non-acronym speak)

On the 20th of June your Treasurer (Steven Austin) and Vice-President (Marie Smith) headed off to Kilbirnie for the FMC AGM. It was a cold, wet and miserable Saturday morning, so being at the Brentwood was marginally better than being in the hills, or so we told ourselves.

The FMC is made up of 82 member clubs, but not all had sent representatives. WTMC is the fifth biggest club out of those 82, (NZ Alpine Club, Alpine Sports Club, Over 40s Tramping Club, and the TTCs are bigger - but please note three of those get their members from all over the country). Because of our size WTMC is entitled to four votes on FMC business – the amount of votes you're entitled to is entirely due to the number of members you have.

The day divided itself into three parts:

Governance business

This was where officers were elected, financial reports approved, etc. Your representatives did not split their votes, but voted as a block. There was some discussion about the annual report and the where to get resources so FMC is able to lobby effectively.

Address by the Minister of Conservation, the Hon Tim Groser

This was actually quite interesting. The Minister had just got off a plane from Samoa, and was a bit shattered, which worked to our advantage as he didn't read from pre-prepared notes put together by officials. Instead he explained his background (Trade: previously as a public servant negotiating for whoever was in government; now as Minister for Trade when he went over to the other side and became a politician). He freely admitted that conservation was new to him and he was kept really busy with the trade portfolio.

The Prime Minister had wanted someone with an economic background to head conservation, so that's why Tim Groser got the job. As a result he spoke about the "conservation economy" and said the public had to see the link between the conservation estate and the economy as a whole. This included tourism, but the minister spoke for quite some time about the management of water, and how that was crucial to New Zealand's economy.

He also said that he was very happy with the recent changes in the Department of Conservation, and considered it a well-run department. In answer to a question he said the 1987 Act under which DOC was set up, was fine and was not going to be reviewed.

Workshops

We split into three groups:

- The Bulletin: this group discussed what changes might be made to the format.
- Conservation advocacy: this group discussed campaigns, how FMC could prioritize issues and what advocacy tools FMC has.
- Communication to young people: this group discussed initiatives to get young people involved in the outdoors, joining clubs etc.

All in all it was an interesting way to spend a Saturday. It was an excellent opportunity to chat to people from different clubs and realize we have a lot of similar issues (getting enough trip leaders and transport were common – though most of the other clubs knew about our recent van purchases and were very curious as to how we were getting on). Unlike the majority of clubs, we don't have a problem keeping our membership numbers up, which is great!

Marie Smith
Vice President

FMC NEWS

Here is a summary of activities by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand in June 2009, including highlights from the AGM, plus news on significant developments of importance to trampers, climbers and all interested in safe outdoor recreation. If your club would like special assistance, please contact your local Executive representative or email the Federation direct.

Federated Mountain Club's 2009 Annual General Meeting

Over 40 comprising your Executive, representatives from member clubs, Mountain Safety Council, Land SAR and Forest and Bird attended the 78th AGM of the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand at the Brentwood Motel in Wellington. The draft minutes of the AGM will be posted on the FMC website. The following is a summary of highlights:

Address by Hon. Tim Groser – Minister of Conservation:

In spite of a very tiring schedule (a 3 am departure from Apia), attendees were delighted that the Hon. Tim Groser was able to attend the AGM. The Minister's speech outlined the National government's policy on conservation and outdoor recreation, and addressed some of the concerns of our members. The speech was well received. Here are some of the salient points. Mr Groser acknowledged that he has less experience in his conservation portfolio than in trade matters and emphasized he was deliberately taking time to get a feel for the role. He stressed that the decision by Prime Minister, Mr Key, to appoint a person with an economic background to the conservation portfolio was a deliberate one. He recognized that whilst there might be a perception and concern that there were major differences between his two key portfolios, Trade and Conservation, the two were easily reconcilable. The new government was keen to implement policies that supported a "Conservation Economy" where there was a balance between economic development and preserving our natural environment. Mr Groser understood that there were key advantages to the economy as a result of preserving our natural environment and safeguarding it from large-scale degradation. Mr Groser expressed confidence in the Department of Conservation, staff and general thrust of its policies and directives. He stressed that the best investment in conservation was a well-educated public. Whilst it was accepted that conservation principles were generally well embedded into the NZ psyche, there was perhaps less of an understanding with the link to the economy. For example, he saw obvious links to tourism, but stressed that these did not have to be at the expense of ruining the conservation estate. A copy of the Minister's address will be posted on the FMC website.

Executive for 2009-10:

President: Rob Mitchell. **North Island Vice Presidents:** Owen Cox and Viv Milne. **South Island Vice Presidents:** David Barnes and Rick Barber. **Secretary:** Phil Glasson. **Treasurer:** Graeme Lythgoe. **Executive:** Richard Davies, Jane Dudley, Quentin Duthie, Robin McNeill, Barbara Morris, Dennis Page, David Round and Lex Smith were all returned. One remaining position was filled by Basil Hooper from Wanganui TC (nominated from the floor). The Executive acknowledges the large contribution made by Nelson representative Tony Haddon, who resigned from his position shortly before the AGM.

Reports

The reports from the President and the Treasurer for 2008-2009 were adopted as presented.

Voting on Constitutional Amendments:

Seven amendments were considered. The outcomes are as follows: The duration of the Immediate Past President's position will remain unchanged from a term of one year. After the 2010 AGM, the four Vice President positions will be replaced with a single position and to compensate for this, the number of positions on the Executive will increase from 10 to 13. Three amendments (4-6 in the club circular) that dealt with timing issues concerning nominations, notification of the AGM and closing dates for nominations and business items were carried. The amendment that increased the number of votes that a club delegate could exercise (from 2 to 3) was also carried.

AGM Workshops:

The afternoon session ran three workshops that covered the themes of, the Bulletin (format and options for the future), Conservation Advocacy and Youth (Development and Promotion). Following the group discussions, key points were reported to the full meeting and passed to the Executive to assist future planning strategy development

Treaty Settlements and Potential Implications on the Conservation Estate – Your Input Required

The Executive is keen to devise policy and strategy guidelines should it need to make future submissions in scenarios where conservation estate might be used as compensation for treaty claims. One area of immediate concern is the impact on access to areas of Te Urewera National Park. We welcome input from members with good local knowledge of this area that would assist us to liaise with local iwi and other interested parties to achieve positive outcomes in areas of common interest – Feedback to Brian Stephenson as soon as possible please at: brian@bwstephenson.com,

Environment and Conservation Organisations of NZ (ECO) Conference

The 2009 ECO Conference, "Greening our way out of a recession", will examine the nation's economic situation and its impact, negative or positive, on managing our environment. The Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand (of which the Federation comprises one of the larger groups) was founded in 1971. The reform of the Conservation Act in relation to the RMA, renewable energy, and the wild rivers campaign as well as many other topical environmental issues will be covered at the conference: 10 - 12 July 2009, Karanga Camp, 79 Te Henga Road, Waitakere City (near Bethells Beach). Members from tramping, mountaineering and outdoor clubs and other interested persons are most welcome to attend. For more information: <http://eco.org.nz/conference/>

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities - North of the North Island

The Department of Conservation plans to expand outdoor recreational opportunities in the Coromandel, Auckland and Northland regions and the Director General welcomes our input. A letter has been sent to all clubs north of a line from Tauranga to Raglan (including Hamilton) requesting suggestions. Club members should send suggestions for

developing overnight tramps, new day walks, family walks, coastal access walkways, camping grounds and conservation or national parks, to Viv Milne at: milne@ps.gen.nz as soon as possible. FMC is also planning to hold a forum in Auckland to co-ordinate the best opportunities for outdoor recreation (details will follow shortly).

Mountain Biking Developments

(1) Following the upgrading of a Whirinaki backcountry route to a shared-use tramping and bike track (refer FMC Focus, June 2009 Bulletin), Federated Mountain Clubs and the Mountain Bike Association of NZ (MTBNZ) will continue liaising in an effort to ensure future consultation by DOC with interested parties. (1) DoC has been asked specific questions about policies and processes for consultation with non-government organizations like the Federation and MTBNZ when established tramping tracks are converted to shared-use, or when new mountain-bike tracks are built on conservation lands. (2) The proposed draft review of the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan that may allow mountain biking on various tracks within the Park, including the Heaphy Track, will soon be notified for public submission within the next few weeks. For any comments or queries on mountain-biking issues, please contact MTB liaison person, Barbara Morris at: btmorrison@paradise.net.nz

Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan - FMC Submission Completed

The FMC submission for the Mount Aspiring National Park Management Plan has been lodged with the Department of Conservation. This represents considerable work on the part of convenor David Barnes and representatives of member clubs. The submission has been placed on the FMC website.

Helicopter Issues in Western Otago

Federated Mountain Clubs has made a detailed submission on concession renewal applications for six helicopter operators in the Queenstown/Wanaka region (excluding Mt Aspiring National Park). DoC's response recognizes the effects of helicopter operations on other users. Their proposal should lead to an improvement in the management of concessions as they affect other users. These include a 'claw-back' clause, where operators not using their allocated landings lose the right to them, and a 'hotspot' clause where landing sites subject to significant complaints from other users can be reduced or cancelled. FMC's submission and DoC's response are being posted on the FMC website.

FROM THE GREEN CROCS (WITH WOOLLY SOCKS UNDERNEATH!)

Salaam, I am back from my Moroccan sojourn, thanks for Sue and Marie for holding the presidential reins while I was away. I have got used to the cold temperatures again, but a few weeks away in the Northern Hemisphere summer makes me hope that spring is not too far away for us. [On Page 1] is a snap from one of the hottest days on my trip, on the Erg Chebbi, near Merzouga.

Winter tramping is a very different beast to summer tramping, and there is nothing quite like walking along a ridge in the snow on a bright blue, clear, crisp day. But the news this week that 2 experienced trampers died between Field and Kime Huts, a route that many of us have travelled, is a sobering reminder of the risks that we take when walking in the NZ outdoors. The club does a number of things to mitigate these risks, training leaders and trampers, always carrying shelter and cookers in case the group does not get to a hut, and having an emergency contact person each weekend. But this recent tragedy also shows that we can never have too much respect for the weather, especially this time of year, and highlights the importance of checking the weather forecast before leaving on your trip, and keeping an eye on it while you are out.

Speaking of training, the AIC and Snowcraft courses that the club has run recently have been very well attended, which is great to see. Particular thanks go to Sharron Came and the other volunteers who helped out with the course.

With the cold weather and the snow comes ski season, and I would encourage you to use the Club's fantastic lodge at the top of the Bruce Road, just a few minutes walk from the bottom of the Whakapapa chair lift. The lodge is available for members and non-members, at very reasonable rates, contact the Lodge Booking Officer, Brian Goodwin lodgebookings@wtmc.org.nz, for enquiries. The lounge area of the lodge was recently refurbished by the Ruapehu Lodge Sub-Committee, many thanks for the hard work this team puts in to make the lodge the superb facility it is. The lodge is available all year round, and there are many other things you can do in the Ruapehu area if skiing is not your thing, or the fields are closed.

One of the (many) great things about our club is the number and variety of trips that we run. The next trip planning meeting will be held on Monday July 27th at 6.30 pm at the club rooms. Anyone is welcome to attend this, and you can send your trip ideas to Paul or Craig at chiefguide@wtmc.org.nz.

The club also puts out great publications, the monthly newsletter, and the annual journal. Contributions are always welcomed for both of these at newsletter@wtmc.org.nz or jackiefoster00@gmail.com respectively. You don't have to be a Hemingway or a Tolkien, just have a go!

You can always contact me on president@wtmc.org.nz, or I am usually around on club nights (except during the Film Festival!)

Darren

NOTICE of D.V.D./C.D. LAUNCH

Club member Derek Kirkland is having a D.V.D./CD... Launch at the Pauatahanui Lighthouse Cinema, Sun. July 26 at 2:30PM price \$25-00. Julian Ward has made this documentary about my sheep shearing and N.Z. songs, shot on location round Paremata, Kaitoke and Avalon. He is entering it in the N.Z. short film festival. He has also made a field recording of 21 original songs for the accompanying C.D.