



the Mouth'n'Ear



Newsletter of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club



Southern Xing party at Platform 9

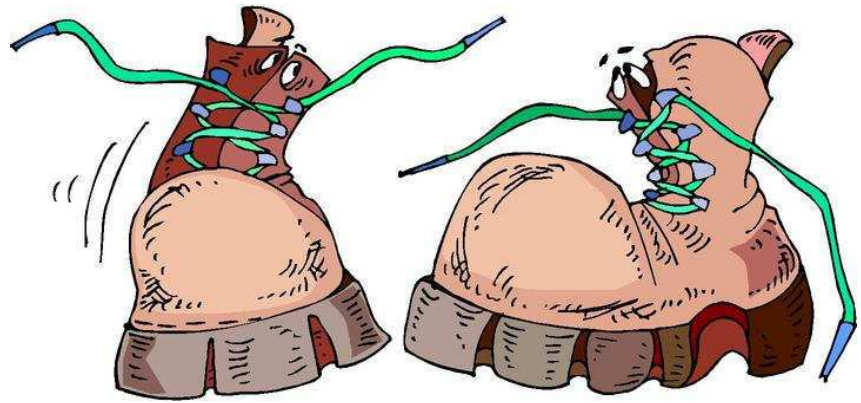
In this March issue: Kai on the Fly; Southern X'ing, X Dressing; Pourangaki (Ruahine FP); Didymo.

Deadline April Newsletter: 16 April

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

Topographical Turpitude

with the Chief Guide



Greetings All,

Committee Member Profile: Paul Jeffries



- 1. Place of birth:** Blenheim
- 2. Occupation:** Chief Guide
- 3. Been a WTMC member for:** 5 years.
- 4. How I have benefitted** (from being a member): Made good friends & been on some awesome tramps
- 5. Best WTMC Alpine trip:** Lake Angelus Nelson Lakes
- 6. Best NAV trip:** Rae Ridge Tararuas

7. Funniest moment: Frozen mince leaking through my pack clothes and cooking it in spaghetti bolognese

8. Favourite Trip Dessert: Jamaican Ginger Loaf with Butterscotch Sauce

9. Favourite tramping hut: Jumbo Hut Tararuas

10. Best day trip: Mainland Island – Wainuiomata Water Catchment (8000 year old trees)

11. The place I would put at the top of my 'bucket list': Tapuaenuku Inland Kaikouras

Important dates coming up:

- Outdoor First Aid 23-25 April (numbers limited)
- Leadership Course 14-16 May

A Sustainable Life - there are many ways to make life more sustainable.

Follow the 3R Rule - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Reduce - make recycle friendly choices so you have less waste

Reuse - use the same item more than once, rather than disposing

Recycle - buy products made from recycled materials

For more ideas of how to make your life more sustainable check out <http://www.sustainability.govt.nz> for ideas on rubbish, water, energy, building, transport, gardening and shopping and <http://www.rightlight.govt.nz>

General

The Lodge is 5 mins from the Whakapapa car park, the envy of most New Zealanders. To make the most of this great Lodge opportunity contact Brian Goodwin by email lodgebookings@wtmc.org.nz or ph 479 6799.

Don't forget about Paua Hut free for members and \$7 per person per night if non-member. Paua Hut for Bookings Phil Kendon ph 475 7625 pauahut@wtmc.org.nz

Paul Jeffries
Chief Guide

UPCOMING TRIPS:

March 26-28

Day	[M]	Takapu Rd-Dry Creek	Mike Gilbert
Day	[E]	Makara	Garry Skipper
Tramp	[FE]	Ohau South-Holdsworth	Murray Sutherland (trip cancelled)

South Island Trips

Tramp	[E]	Sawcut Gorge	Donna Maher
Tramp	[E/M]	Kaikouras Mt. Fyffe to Hapuku Hut(3days)	Megan Sety
Tramp	[F]	Mt Snowflake	Leader Required
Cycle	[M/F]	Kaikoura - Waiau	Leader Required

April 1-5 (Easter)

Kayak	[E/M]	Waikaremoana	Kevin Cole & Donna Maher
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Nelson Lakes

Tramp	[E]	Blue Lake	Amelia Moody
Tramp	[E/M]	Travers-Sabine	Clinton Hunter
Tramp	[M/F]	Travers Saddle- Blue Lake-Moss Pass	Paul Christoffel

Kahurangi NP (Cobb road end)

Tramp	[E/M]	Lake Sylvester, Diamond Lakes	Leader Required
Tramp	[M]	Waingaro Peak	Leader Required
Tramp	[F]	Dragons Teeth	Jenny Beaumont
Tramp	[FE]	Wangapeka5-6 Day	Jenny Cossey

SI ex ChCh

[ALP1]	[F]	Somewhere high (4.5 days)	Sharron Came
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April 9-11

Wellington Day Walks

Day	[E]	Butterfly Creek	Ray Walker
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Day	[M/F]	Extended Skyline walkway	Hans Wiskerke
Day	[F]	Mystery	Murray Sutherland
Day	[M]	Kapakapanui	Mika Verheul

April 16-18

Lodge-based Trips

Day	[E]	Tama Lakes	Mike Gilbert
Alp1	[M]	Tongariro Crossing	Anthony Mulick
Tramp	[F]	Mystery	Leader Required
Cycle	[M]	Pohangina Valley	Hans Wiskerke
Day	[E]	Mystery (Wgtn Walk)	Patricia Hassett

April 23-25

Instruction [All] **Outdoor First Aid (Wainuiomata)** Private Instructor

Seaward Kaikouras

Tramp	[M/F]	George Saddle - Jam Hut (3 days)	Harry Smith
Tramp	[F]	Mystery	Simon Mcauliffe

April 30-2 May

Ruahines - Rangiwahia

Tramp	[E/M]	Triangle Hut	Leader Required
Tramp	[M]	Iron gate Hut	Steve Austin
Tramp	[F]	Howletts Hut	Leader Required
Tramp	[EM]	(NAV)Waingawa 8 only	Megan Sety
Tramp	[M]	Womble over the tops	Alistair Young

Social Corner



17.03.10 Social Night- Could we do anything else on St Pat's?
 24.03.10 Glynne Lloyd – A Christmas trip without the clag
 31.03.10
 07.04.10 John Doyle - Italy
 14.04.10 AGM

Big thank you to everybody who came on New Members Night. Apparently the most people, ever, signed up to help out and you'll all know how many new faces there were there. The rough estimate of peoples in the hall that night was about 100. Our success that night, in part, can also be measured in those signing up for trips, which were all over booked. Fabulous!

Also a big thank you to Sharron Came for her fabulous presentation on the mammoth south island trip over Christmas/ New Year. Another packed Wednesday night in which we were enthralled and in awe of their intrepid journey through the Garden of Allah and Satan's Col. Not to mention the helicopter!

You may have heard rumours of a Tramping Ball, well now it's official! Make sure you keep the evening of the 21st August free for THE social event of the year. There'll be dinner, dancing and opportunity to fraternise.... not just with the opposite sex, but with other trampers and outdoor folks from around Wellington. All welcome, make sure your friends know (as long as they not the type to soil the venue....). There will be deals coming up for early bird tickets. Watch this space...

Congratulations to our esteemed president Darren and his partner, Sandra. They sealed the deal with a civil union ceremony on the 26th of February! Best wishes to both for now and the future.

Annual Journal

Well done to Hans and Mika on winning flights to Christchurch for their entertaining and well written article in our 2009 annual journal on How to become a New Zealand Trumper.

Your Editors are keen and ready to start work on this years journal now! As such, can you please get your pens out and start writing earlier this year. We are after articles on all sorts of trips so we can get good coverage of the wide range of activities that happen in the club. It doesn't have to be a masterpiece. We are editors - editing is our job!

We would also love to receive your photos so we can have a really impressive photo gallery this year. We are particularly interested in action shots, whether it be tramping, mountain biking, kayaking, skiing, climbing or buggy pushing.

Let's make sure this years journal is even better than the last.

Your Journal Editors – Jackie Foster and Tony Gazley.

Membership Report

This month we welcome Simon McAuliffe and Ian Yeoman as senior members, Kath Haines as the second half of a "couple" membership, and we also say welcome back to Jo Boyle and Christine Latimer who have re-joined after a few years away.

All members should now have received an invoice in the post - please pay your renewal subscription at your earliest convenience.. and if you pay by the 31st March you receive an early payment discount! It would also be helpful if you could let me know if you wish to receive the newsletter by post (and are paying the extra \$5 for printing and postage). Thank you to those of you who have already paid!

Any questions about membership or renewals please get in touch with me - either on email at membership@wtmc.org.nz or find me at the club on a Wednesday night.

Jenny - WTMC Membership Officer

MINIVAN FAMILIARISATION SESSION

WTMC is regularly on the look-out for more club members to help with driving duties for the trips it runs each weekend. To this effect **ALL** club members are invited to express their interest in attending a club minivan familiarisation session. The session will be led by Steve "P Endorsement" Austin on a weekend morning and will last approximately 3 hours. The session will involve a practical demonstration of the vehicle with a run-down of its main features and functions. All people attending will be given the opportunity to drive the van in a more relaxed environment than that of a busy Friday evening departure. Also explained will be the use of the Fleetcard for purchasing diesel, what to do in the event of breakdown and where the vans are stored before collection.

The clubs 2 Ford Transit 12-seater minivans are great to drive and the club wants to give all it's members a chance to increase their driving confidence.

The date for this session is not yet known as both vans are being used most weekends. If you are keen to help out with sharing the driving duties please express your interest by emailing transport@wtmc.org.nz and once a date is known you will be contacted. Please also keep a watch on the website Forum.

Thanks. Gareth Morton - Transport Officer.

KAI ON THE FLY

with Aunty Rata

March is Aunty Rata's favourite month of the year. The weather is at its best and passion fruit are in season. What more can an old bird want? Well maybe a few seeds! This month I have a recipe for you that features nuts and seeds. Yes I know, at first blush it may be hard to get excited about small crunchy things but they are light and small and packed full of nutrients which makes them excellent additions to any tramping kai. My favourite seeds are pumpkin and sunflower. As well as being great sources of protein, carbohydrates and fat they contain other nutrients that help keep us active. Pumpkin seeds contain iron, magnesium and zinc. Sunflower seeds have calcium, magnesium, zinc, potassium and iron. They are a worthy addition to any meal not just the recipe below. To really bring out their wonderful flavours it is best to dry roast them till they crackle and pop and swell up like you do when you drink too many beers.

Nutty Rice (serves 4-6)

Ingredients

120g basmati rice per person
Big handful chopped apricots
Big handful chopped figs, raisins or dates
1c cashew pieces
Big handful peanuts or almond flakes
2 tb sunflower seeds

2 tb pumpkin seeds
2tsp cumin
Quarter cup of red wine or cider vinegar
Half a cup of olive oil
1tsp oregano
1tsp chives
2 peppers
2 carrots
2 courgettes

Method

- Chop fresh vege.
- Mix together vinegar, olive oil, oregano and chives to make dressing (you can do this at home and bring on trip ready made).
- In a billy dry roast seeds and nuts with cumin. Set aside.
- In other billy bring to boil water sufficient to cook rice. Add the dried fruit and rice. When rice is nearly done add veges. Cook.
- Combine the contents of both billies if there is room and serve. If there is not room to combine serve rice mix into bowls and add dressing.

After a feed of nutty rice all you need is something wonderfully light, tart and tasty for dessert – in March that would have to be passion fruit!

Before I go, a brief word about the “Best Tramping Bum” competition. Jackie is a bit worried that some of you may be interpreting the competition a bit too literally. She does not really want to be inundated with photos of posteriors unless they are really spectacular. Here is another entry that Aunty Rata thought had merit.

(photo by Garry DeRose)

Name: lets say Mr Smith

Occupation: retired trumper, statistician

Age: comes before beauty, equals

experience, ok if you must know, 74ish

Hobbies: visiting hot pools, attending film and music festivals, bargain hunting, sleeping under trees, cards

Favourite local hut: Cone Hut, Tararua FP

Favourite shop: Cash Converters

Greatest virtue: will eat anything

Greatest vice: see greatest virtue

What I'm reading: Mouth n Ear March edition

So, it is not too late send your entries to Jackie or newsletter@wtmc.org.nz. Send



your recipes and articles as well. Big thanks to Leeann Newton for writing in and including her original recipe for Spicy Couscous (see below).

Dear Aunty Rata

So lovely to see recipes appearing again in our newsletter and that you are being the Aunt Daisy of WTMC for those a little scared of anything culinary. Your attribution of a lovely Moroccan couscous to me was flattering but I have to admit the version is not mine - though a very nice version by the sounds of it! It did bring back fond memories of tramping now that the most adventurous fodder I cook now days is puree of something for our hungry 6mth old Maya, and the only flora I see is that growing from spilt milk and mush in the highchair, but quick and easy still applies at home. My recipe was even lazier and ready to eat in one billy and uses dried most everything and there is no reheating... if in the vicinity of going from rock shelter to Salisbury lodge watch out for wild mint and pick a few chopped sprigs of that to add. Here is a reprint of my version from 04/05.

SPICY COUSCOUS

HINTS

Good as its ready as soon as your billy boils

Suits some of those hard to please vegetarians (oops that's a bit non P.C)

Fills a hut with a nice odour (while peeving others off in the hut as your meal smells great and you're eating while they are still reading the instruction manual on a dehy meal.)

1 billy job but MAKE SURE YOU MEASURE COUSCOUS before doing the water or you could have a dry mess or soup! (equal measure of couscous to water)

HOW TO

- In someone's bowl cut up the feta. In someone's bowl (preferably a non vegetarian) cut up the beer sticks or salami.
- If you've been extravagant and taken oil add that to a few tablespoons of water to fry off dried onions & garlic. No oil? use a bit of water so it doesn't burn. Throw in the spice mix. Add 1 tsp of chilli. I leave 1 aside to sprinkle over final dish for those who like it hotter. (don't lean over and look in the billy at this point and don't let it burn!)
- Quickly Add the 3 cups of water (plus half a cup extra water if you are adding dried vege/peas) and add sultana's and tomatoes.
- 2 minutes before it boils add the peas.
- Once boiled, take off heat, throw in the couscous and capsicum – quickly STIR ONCE and put lid on and don't touch for 5 minutes. Uncover and fluff with fork and dish up. Throw feta & salami on top. Vego's can opt for tuna with feta.

WHAT: (for 5 people)

- Couscous 600g
- 1 Salami or 4-5 beer sticks (tuna for vege or fishy option)
- Spice mix: 2 tsp Cumin, 2 tsp coriander, 2 tsp good vege stock powder 1-2 tsp chilli flakes

- Sultanas & sundried tomatoes
- 2 Capsicum & feta cheese
- Dried green stuff (3 tsp of any parsley/basil/oregano/chives/mint)
- Dried Garlic flakes and onion flakes

HOW MUCH – DISTRIBUTION OF COST/WEIGHT

Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
1 pkt feta 1 onion & clove garlic (or 3 TB dried onion and 3 tsp dried garlic)	2 cups couscous (300 grams)	Capsicums ¼ cup of sultanas 1/4 c dried peas Dribble of oil?	Spice and herb mix 5-6 sundried tomatoes 2 cups couscous	1 salami (300gm)

From the soon to come out of tramping retirement Newton family??

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this letter as a warning to other young women in the club. It is based on my actual experiences of a recent trip I did, which overwhelmingly confirmed my initial suspicions that the WTMC has a serious problem with the type of men it attracts.

This latest trip was touted by the leader Jack as a medium grade southern crossing, and who promised we would all have a great time. A following email requested that more men sign up to even out the numbers - which of course seemed too good to be true to an available single woman such as myself.

However, it became painfully obvious at Platform 9 on the Friday evening of the trip that the blokes coming along didn't by any means match up to my hopes and expectations. While we women were all well turned out in neat and appropriate attire for a weekend tramp, the blokes were unshaven, with scruffy, ill-fitting clothes, and as it turned out, scruffy and grubby minds to match. Just take another look at the group photograph to see for yourself.

We eventually left Wellington late after the trip leader finally found a missing club van parked on some side street somewhere or other. The drive to Otaki Forks was pleasant enough with a stop for some takeaways (although obviously no thoughts by the blokes for a more intimate sit-down meal by candlelight).

The walk to Fields Hut was pleasant on the warm evening – though spoilt somewhat by some blokes moaning how hot they were and how difficult the tramping was.

The following morning the girls were first up to light the cooker, fetch the water and put on the billy – no niceties by any of the blokes such as bringing us a cup of tea to have in bed. We may be tough trampers when we have to be, but we still enjoy being pampered - but the blokes just didn't get it. Unfortunately this turned out to be too typical of the way the weekend was heading.

We wandered up towards Kime Hut just as the weather became a bit worse. Sister Mary had a higher-calling about here and headed urgently back down to attend to other-worldly matters. By the time we arrived at the hut most of the blokes were cold and tired and were soon in their sleeping bags.

After some time when everyone had eaten and felt warmer the blokes were asked if they were ready to go on. None wanted to move! So much for the macho male trampers we hear stories about. True - it was just a bit breezy and a bit misty - but when I was young we were so poor I used to have to walk the 20 miles to kindergarten in bare feet along a gravel road wearing only a pair of my father's cast-off underpants in weather worse than that outside the hut.

So there we stayed, and the afternoon passed playing games such as 20 questions where, without exception, the blokes took forever to get the answers to simple questions posed by the girls. Just another indication of the level of mental reasoning of the male brain.

The blokes did actually cook the evening meal and it was certainly tasty enough- but there was no meat! How did they expect post-menstrual women on the trip to get by without the



iron they needed at times like this? Again – just pathetically gormless, unthinking and uncaring. The dessert was appreciated by everyone – but it had been carried all the way to the hut by us women! And the blokes were certainly happy to eat more than their share.

An after-meal game continued the theme of grubby-minded males spoiling otherwise enlightening and uplifting entertainment. The idea was everyone wrote a sentence at the top of a sheet of paper. These were passed to the next person in the circle who drew a picture to match the words. Then the first line was folded under, the paper passed again and the next person wrote another sentence based only on

the drawing – and so on. This should have provided valuable insights into the psyche of fellow trampers and encouraged warm, meaningful and lasting bonds of trust and friendship.

But of course this never happened. While the women wrote nice happy insightful sentences (such as ‘isn’t this fun’) and drew nice happy insightful pictures (such as the sun shining over the mountains), the blokes inevitably misinterpreted the words and drawings and resorted to gutter sentences such as, ‘there are bubbles coming out the long-drop’, and then drew pictures of toilets and poos.

Things nearly got completely out of hand when one bloke’s drawing showed a girl lying on a bed with her **CENSORED** and two blokes standing and looking, one with his **CENSORED**. This sort of puerile, perverted behavior to my mind is disgusting (but interesting) and shouldn’t be allowed on club trips.

On the way back down on Sunday in the warm sunshine when we women could dress more casually there was a constant reference by the blokes to breasts. Why was it so surprising to them that some were a bit bouncy, and others perky? After all, we all have them and they are all different. I found this particularly degrading and demeaning but they carried on with their ignorant innuendo nonetheless.

And it was not only me that was badly affected by this trip. On the Sunday morning Andrea was so traumatized by events that she had dressed with her brassier on the outside of her blouse without apparently being aware anything was wrong!

Additionally the effect on other folk we met was terrible. We passed families walking around the picnic area, and I constantly overheard parents having to reassure their young children, and calming them by telling them that everything was all right and that the men were probably from circuses or broken homes.

So there you have it ladies – a sad tale but true. The stories you hear of good-looking, fit, strong, and caring tramping blokes who will carry your gear, keep you warm at night in a cold hut and then buy you a drink at the end of the weekend seem to be nothing more than a cruel hoax. Guys today seduce you with sweet talk of wonderful trips into the hills but then



leave you with only empty disillusionment. Where, please tell me, are those male trampers of yesterday who really knew how to treat a female impersonator?

Yours sincerely

Mrs Antonia Unisex (I've heard of it but never had it)
Wellington Transvestite and Mincing Club.

PS Words heard on the trip that I would like the club to ban:

T*ts, b*tty, po*s, we*s, Tar*r*as, pu*en*a, WT*C.

Punter Gets Lift-off in the Ruahines Medium Tramp – 12 to 14 February

by Kate Cushing and Gareth Morton
photo by Vlad Dvennik

The Route:

Mangakukeke Road End to Purity Hut then on to the tops of Wooden Peg and Iron Peg, across and down the ridge heading south east past Pinnacle Creek to Pourangaki Hut. Sunday was down the Pourangaki River to Kelly Knight hut then along the trail back to the Mangakukeke Road End.



The Stat's:

Highest Point- Iron Peg
1703m
Saturday's hours- 8.5
Sunday's Hours- 6
Metres of Climbing-
Saturday 1000m,
Sunday a few ups and
downs
Huts Bagged- 3
Leader- Gareth Morton
Punters- Steve A, Jo P,
Rita Q, Vlad D, John H
and Kate C (aka MJ)

The Story:

The trip was off to an illustrious start with a free stay in Kohonui Lodge (owned by the Landowner for the first part of the track) on Friday night. Now that's how a road-end should always be! The day was looking a bit overcast for the tops and the forecast for wind

appeared to be correct. We were undeterred and decided to stick to the plan to go across the tops.

Gareth dispatched with the bulls at the gate to get us all safely on our way. The track starts through private farmland which is well marked and then after only a brief warm-up heads straight up into the bush. OK- not straight up, but it felt that way for a couple of us punters. The track up to Purity Hut is quite steep but lovely through the bush. Purity Hut sits just above the bushline and would have a really nice view on a clear day- we were in the mist and wind already so we decided to have an early lunch there since stopping on the tops was going to be unpleasant.

Still undeterred by wind and clag we headed up to Wooden Peg and Iron Peg. The track is well marked with poles but in the mist there was some navigation required. There are also several signs for the huts on the ridge which was good for reassurance. We started to really feel the wind and some of the punters were seen clinging to the hill side bushes and scrambling on all fours below the ridges. There was one slip to cross but the scree was handled very nicely by all- except Steve who decided to use his climbing skills on the ridge.

We reached the turn-off for Waterfall Hut and regrouped for a decision whether we should go down into Pinnacle Creek and get out of the wind or continue across the ridge to Pourangaki. The punters weren't too interested in the tough downhill to Waterfall (nor, let's be honest, climbing back up Sunday morning) so the fateful decision to continue to Pourangaki was made.

Just after getting started again along the ridge a random gust of particularly vengeful wind took hold of a couple of punters. One of which held on nicely with a graceful tip over. The other punter however became airborne, flipped over a couple of times, landed on the scree and slid a wee way. Quite a scene from eyewitness accounts. Luckily there was no injury besides some scratches, bruises and frayed nerves. Gareth made a daring rescue and the crawl across the ridge resumed until a bit of outdoor First Aid could be safely administered. The clouds began to clear in the afternoon and there were some really amazing views of the Saw Tooth Ridge and the other surrounding peaks making the climbing and fighting the wind feel worthwhile.

The drop down to the Pourangaki River was quite steep and slippery for tired legs, so this portion of the day took a bit longer than expected. The First Aid Kit had to be used yet again when another un-named punter had a fall and managed to incur a bleeding forehead and knees! At this point the trip leader was beginning to think he was cursed! Nearing the river there were exclamations of seeing the hut which turned out to be false- must have been some sort of mirage because more than one person saw it. Hmmm... Anyway, after crossing the river via swing bridge there was yet another bunch of climbing (100m?) to reach Pourangaki Hut.

The hut was very nice and is set in a beautiful location. Rain started shortly after we arrived making us wonder about the river levels. We settled in for a great Thai curry dinner and were

to bed early after discussions about whether to take the track (800m climbing then 1000m down) or the river to Kelly Knight Hut.

The rain stopped early in the evening and the day looked lovely when we got up Sunday, so the collective decision was to take the Pourangaki River route to Kelly Knight. This turned out to be a great decision with a lot of fun river walking and only a few spots of climbing around boulders. There were only a few places deeper than mid-thigh and the flow wasn't enough to warrant linking up. We made good time in the sunshine to Kelly Knight and took the time there to have lunch, sun bathe and- for one punter who just hadn't had enough water- a swim in the river.

We finished out the day on the well worn track from Kelly Knight Hut back to the road end, including a lovely walk through a wheat field and dodging racing motorbikes.

A great route and a great group. Taking flight off the ridge was just a bonus. Thanks for a fabulous weekend gang! Well done, Gareth!

Wellington Tramping & Mountaineering Club Inc.

SECOND NOTICE OF AGM

Notice is hereby given that the *Annual General Meeting* of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club will be held at the Clubrooms on **WEDNESDAY 14th April 2010** commencing at 8.00pm.

Nomination for committee positions are now open and must be received in writing by the Club Secretary by **WEDNESDAY 31st MARCH 2010**. The nomination form is available from the Secretary on Wednesday club nights.

Didymo

The North Island is still didymo free, so it is timely to remind your members that the "Check Clean Dry" process is still vitally important in keeping the North Island didymo free.

With the rapidly approaching Easter break, being a traditional time for South Island trips, I would like to draw your attention to some new "tramping and hunting" based information and resources that MAFBNZ have available.

MAFBNZ are the lead agency for Didymo awareness and response. Their website <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo> has the most up to date information on how to decontaminate items that have been exposed to freshwater. It also has maps of where didymo is currently found (but that should be treated as indicative only, because testing on rivers is carried out at different time intervals). It is best to assume that all freshwater you enter may have didymo in it, and that the next river has none.

MAFBNZ have specific tramping sized spray bottles (250ml), eco friendly detergent for decontamination, brochures and some treats for those following the "Check Clean Dry" method.

There is also specific didymo information on the DOC website <http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/biosecurity/didymo/> that also links to some areas that have specific didymo controls to protect special areas (Fiordland and Stewart Island)

If you would like to get more information on didymo, how to decontaminate specific items and what is happening locally please feel free to contact me.

I hope to see you in the hills sometime.

David Moss dmosse@doc.govt.nz

Technical Support Officer - Freshwater Aquatic Pests / Kaimātanga – Orotā Wai Māori
Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy, Department of Conservation

181 Thorndon Quay, PO Box 5086, Wellington 6145

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236 8819 www.doc.govt.nz

All published trip reports (or other written articles that aren't committee reports) are in the draw to win a \$20 book voucher!

Congratulations to John Marney, winner of the February draw, for the Mt Rolleston report.

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.

FROM THE GREEN CROCS

If the last week is anything to go by, summer is still clinging on, and it is great to see lots of people out enjoying the good weather. With Easter being fairly early this year, I expect that many of you will be planning some great multi-day trips, and the club has a fantastic selection of South Island trips. Make sure you sign up quickly!

Trip planning never stops for long though, and a planning meeting was held at the clubrooms this Monday, to come up with a draft Winter schedule, which covers May to August 2010. Paul or Melissa will shortly be looking for trip leaders for this schedule, and we hope to have the draft schedule on the Trip Planning Wiki link (under Trips) on the club website very soon.

This weekend, our Assistant Chief Guide, Melissa Hewson is taking a group to Paua Hut in the Rimutakas for our Bushcraft course, hopefully the weather will stay fine and warm, and the participants learn a lot, and enjoy themselves. We hope to see you on some more club trips soon. Thanks to Melissa and her team of volunteers for organising this course.

I mentioned the Annual General Meeting in my last report, this is on Wed April 14th at the club rooms. The club's Annual Report will be included with this newsletter, if you have any questions or issues about the report, or club affairs in general, you can raise them at the AGM, or by contacting me if you can't make it to the meeting.

We are still looking for people to fill the following vacancies on committee, Chief Guide, Promotions, Secretary, and 2 Vice Presidents. Also vacant is the non-committee position of Gear Custodian. If you would like to know more about each position, you can talk to the person who is currently in the role (or me), or check out Committee Job Descriptions under Downloads on www.wtmc.org.nz. Nominations close on March 31st.

I know that a committee role is a big commitment of time and energy, but it is vital for the club to have people in all committee positions so that we can keep the club running as well as possible to serve you, the members. If you do have the time and energy to give to the club, we would love to talk to you!

You can contact me on president@wtmc.org.nz, or I am usually around on club nights.

Darren Hammond