



# the Mouth'n'Ear



*Newsletter of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club*



*Gully to the Playing Fields (Ball Pass trip)*

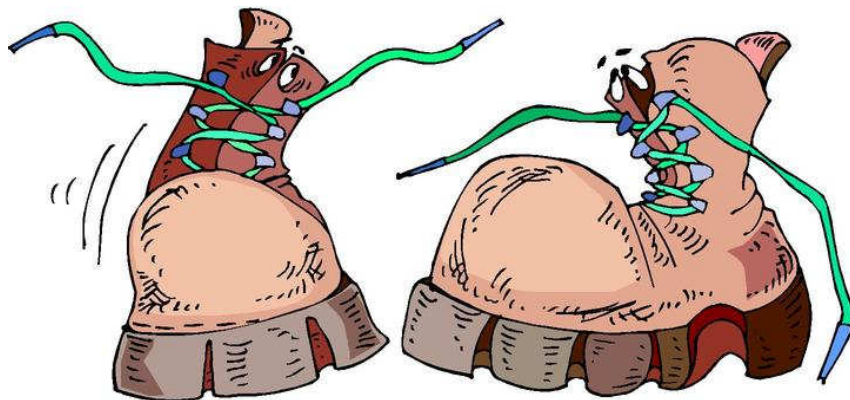
In this February issue: Syme Hut (Egmont NP); Mt Climie; South west ridge of Aspiring; Ball Pass (Mt Cook); Chilled out Asian Deli Noodles; Kahurangi mountain bike trials.

Deadline March Newsletter: 25 February

Send contributions to [newsletter@wtmc.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@wtmc.org.nz), or PO Box 5068 Wellington.

# Track Talk

with Amanda Wells -  
Chief Guide



It's the height of summer (insert joke about Wellington weather here) and tramping's prime time. While you feel almost obligated to do a big trip over Christmas, it's an open secret that festive weather can best be described as "mixed". Those of us down south over New Year (and at times it seemed like nearly everyone using the Mountain Radio Service was an ex or current WTM Cer) experienced the extremes of a New Zealand holiday period. We had an unexpected helicopter ride, saw some amazing waterfalls, but never actually used pack covers – thanks to strategic hut days. Now, as February looms, we should be able to look forward to some genuinely good weather. It's a great time to be making plans, or doing big trips if your leave and budget allow.

The nice thing about long trips is that a day or two of rain isn't a disaster. Often you have the time to sit it out or put plan B (or C) into play. At Anniversary weekend, some of us headed to Kahurangi with the 1000 acre plateau our intended destination. For some on the trip it was their third attempt; others their second. That weekend, everywhere else it rained. But we enjoyed three days of waterless, windless beauty. Though there were some clouds at times. It added weight to my (not particularly logical) theory that if you attempt to go somewhere enough times, eventually the weather will come through.

Unfortunately the vagaries of our calendar mean this year is minus two public holidays, with Waitangi day falling at the weekend and Anzac on Easter Monday. So we've added a three-day weekend to the schedule in early March to provide a long-weekend opportunity – check out the trips to Nelson Lakes and the Raglan Range, and make sure you sign up early.

Upcoming trips:

## **4-6 Feb Haurangis / Ruahine FP**

Tramp	M	Haurangi crossing -	Mika Verheul
Tramp	EM	Mid Pohangina Hut -	Anna Lambrechtsen

## **11-13 Feb Tararua FP – Kaitoke**

Tramp	EM	Tutuwai -	Paul Andrew
Tramp	M	Bull Mound – Cone hut -	Kevin Cole
Tramp	F	Neill Winchcombe	Leader required
Family	All	Tramp/camp Palliser Bay -	Mike Gilbert
Day	EM	Colonial Knob to Mt Kaukau -	Ray Walker

Cycle M Pohangina Valley Hans Wiskerke/Mika Verheul

### 18-20 Feb Wanganui FP – Waitotara / Lodge

Tramp	E	Trains Hut	Amelia White
Tramp	MF	Tahupo Hut	Leader required
Tramp	MF	Tararua Northern Crossing -	Amanda Wells
Day	M	Tongariro Crossing (Lodge) -	Andy Hay
Cycle	M	Wanganui River road -	Anna Lambrechtsen
Family	All	Breaker Bay daywalk -	Beth Piggott

### 25-27 Feb Tararua FP – Ohau

Tramp	E	North Ohau hut-	Darren Hammond
Tramp	EM	Waiopahu via Blackwater stream -	Alistair Young
Tramp	M	Deception Spur – Te Matawai -	Garry Skipper
Kayak	EM	Somes Island daytrip -	Kevin Cole
Day	M	Mt Reeves (Wairarapa) -	Murray Sutherland
Cycle	E	Morrisons Bush (Wairarapa) daytrip -	Harry Smith

### 3-6 Mar (3 day) Nelson Lakes NP / Raglan Range Tramp

	E	John Tait hut, Cupola -	Amelia White
Tramp	EM	Lees Creek hut (Raglan Range) -	John Hickey
Tramp	MF	Hellfire-Misery-Lees Creek (Raglan Range) -	Sharron Came
Tramp	EM	Whakanui Kiwi spotting (Rimutaka Range, 2 day) -	Megan Banks
Day	M	Ngaio/Otari -	Helen Law
Day	EM	Butterfly Creek (Eastbourne) -	Barbara Keenan
Family	All	Camping Catchpool -	Richard Lyth

## Membership Report

Thanks to all those who have renewed your subscription for 2011. Those of you yet to pay-up, please do so asap. For those of you who have lost your invoices the fee structure is as follows:

Membership Type	Annual subscription		Membership Type	Annual subscription
Senior	\$62		Couple	\$79
Veteran	\$52		Veteran couple	\$70
Junior	\$38		Associate	\$38
Family	\$38		Friend of the Club	\$38

Please pay into the club bank account: 06-0582-0013409-02 using your name and "subs" as payment references so that we can trace your payment. Alternatively you can post a cheque to the club mailbox at PO Box 5068, Wellington or hand a cheque to me or another committee member on a club night. Please remember that if you want to receive newsletters by post (within NZ only) then please add \$5 per household for this to cover



some of the costs of printing and postage. Please also let me know if you wish receive hard copies in the post. Please renew your subscription as soon as possible and before the end of March.

Any questions please email me on [membership@wtmc.org.nz](mailto:membership@wtmc.org.nz) or find me on a club night.

Jenny  
WTMC Membership Officer

## KAI ON THE FLY

*with Aunty Rata*

Kia Ora and happy new year

Wasn't it nice to get the Club Journal just before Xmas? Felt like an extra special present and if like Aunty Rata you were struggling to squeeze in a few fun trips into the hills between all those heavy rain warnings, you probably had a bit of spare time to read it! If you didn't manage to get away tramping then maybe your chance will come later this summer when the weather is traditionally more settled. The great thing about tramping is that you can do it in just about any weather so long as you tailor your plans to the weather you get rather than the weather you hoped for.

Now before Xmas I promised to look into Tararua biscuits. At this stage that particular project is still a work in progress. Meantime I have a nice summery noodle recipe for you to try out. It comes to you in my best approximation of the Club cookbook format. Like all my concoctions the recipe is a guide only. Any suggestions for improvements or variations are welcome. This recipe is designed to be served cold or luke- warm which is why it is well suited to summer. You can make the Asian Deli Sauce in bulk quantities and keep it in the fridge to use at home. Obviously if you are using it at home you can add the water component straight away. If you can't be bothered making the sauce yourself there are various packets and jars available in supermarkets that approximate the sauce. Look for one that features the ingredients listed below.

### **Chilled Out Asian Deli Noodles**

**Chef:** Aunty Rata

**Number served:** 4-6

**Special features:** Gluten Free if you use rice noodles, you can substitute tofu with frozen shrimps or use both (highly recommended). Cooked chicken is ok too. Do not waste time grating fresh ginger and garlic unless you have nothing better to do, yes they taste better than the stuff in jars but life is too short, save that kind of effort for when cooking at home. Likewise in relation to coriander and lemongrass paste – the fresh stuff is great but not very practical for transporting on a tramp, it is bad enough keeping spring onions from getting mashed.

**Requirements:** Someone needs to make up the sauce at home and bring it in a sealed container, likewise the tofu marinade. 1 cooker, 2 billies but 1 can be small. Really keen? Take some tongs as they make serving noodles easy.

## Ingredients

### *Asian Deli Sauce*

- 4tsp crushed garlic
- 3 tsp crushed ginger
- 4 TB soy sauce
- 3 TB sweet Thai chilli sauce
- 2 TB fish sauce
- 4 TB peanut butter
- 3 spring onions finely chopped
- 2 TB coriander paste\*
- 1 cup water

100g rice noodles or udon or egg noodles or spaghetti per person

Half cup roasted peanuts or other nuts

2 spring onions

Half pkt mung beans

Half a cucumber chopped into batons

1 red pepper diced

### *Tofu marinade*

- 2 TB sweet Thai chilli Sauce
- 2TB coriander paste\*
- 2 TB lemon juice
- 1 TB olive oil
- 2 TB lemon grass paste\*

250g tofu and/or 205g pre-cooked frozen shrimps

## Method

1. To make the Asian Deli sauce combine relevant ingredients in a blender and puree until semi smooth. Pour into a container and store in fridge until you go tramping. (If you don't have a blender try an egg beater, a whisk or a fork). *Remember to leave out the water and add it at your hut or campsite if you are taking the sauce tramping.*
2. To make the tofu marinade combine the marinade ingredients in a container and store in fridge until you go tramping.
3. Cook noodles as per the instructions on the packet. Drain.
4. In another billy fry the tofu and/or shrimps in the marinade.

5. Dice the red pepper, finely chop the spring onions, chop the cucumber into batons. Chuck these veges and the mung beans into the noodle mixture.
6. Mix 1 cup of water into the sauce then add the sauce and the cooked tofu and/or shrimps. Combine everything and serve.

Number of punters	2	4	6	8	10	12
Asian Deli Sauce	Half the above	As above	As above	Double the above	Double the above	Double the above
Tofu marinade	Half the above	See above	See above	Double the above	Double the above	Double the above
Noodles	200g	400g	600g	800g	1000g	1200g
Roasted peanuts	quarter cup	Half cup	Half cup	1 cup	1 cup	1 + quarter cup
Tofu and/or frozen shrimps Or cooked chicken	150g tofu Handful shrimps As for shrimps	250g tofu 250g shrimps As for shrimps	250g tofu 250g shrimps As for shrimps	300g tofu 300g shrimps As for shrimps	300g tofu 300g shrimps As for shrimps	350g tofu 350g shrimps As for shrimps
Red pepper	Half a pepper	1 pepper	1 pepper	1 big or 2 small peppers	1 big or 2 small peppers	2 big peppers
Spring onions	1	2	2	3	4	5
Mung beans	A handful	Half a packet	Half a packet	Whole packet (250g)	Whole packet	Whole packet
Cucumber	Half	Half	Half	Whole	Whole	whole

## Syme Hut – Egmont National Park

### Medium Fit ALP1 – November 19 to 21

by Spencer Clubb

**Punters: Steve (leader), spencer, Dimitri**

*We left Syme Hut at 10.30am and stepped straight into a howling gale and horizontal hail. Visibility suddenly vanished and we were forced to quickly don sunglasses to avoid squinting into a near white-out. I looked back at the hut into the teeth of the storm and was rewarded with a painful pelting of hail, like I'd stuck my head into a popcorn making machine. It hurt. But it also felt good. I felt alive for the first time in a while. We let out a few whoops as the elements whipped our arses and sent us scurrying down from Fathom's peak on to lower ground and some immediate respite. Normality quickly resumed as we descended out of the pelt-zone.*

Although no doubt impressed by our no-fear attitude to tramping, astute readers may be wondering why a medium-fit alpine tramping party was heading out the door at 10.30am. After all, aren't alpine trips synonymous with alpine starts? And doesn't the WTMC trip guide say that medium-fit trips should be 6-10 hours per day?

There are, of course, several answers to this question:

- On a purely factual basis, it wasn't a medium-fit alpine trip. Guilty as charged. We managed 5 hours across 2 days and only set foot on snow for all of 30 seconds.
- On a theoretical basis, medium-fit trips, particularly alpine trips, are about the **possibility** of having to go hard all day, and then some. You have to **be able** to do it, in case the trip and conditions demand it. But that doesn't mean that you absolutely **have** to do it. Leaders and punters have collective free-will to make their minds up as to how best to spend their weekend together. Or should I say, the illusion of free-will, as the weather gods are almost always the ones in charge.
- More philosophically, tramping is as much about healing the soul as it is about challenging the body. Sometimes relaxation is what the doctor ordered. Next trip we might make it to the top of a mountain, or have an epic bush bash through a leatherwood jungle. The important thing is to have fun with great people, come out safe and go back for more next time. No two trips are ever the same.

On this occasion, all three answers were valid.

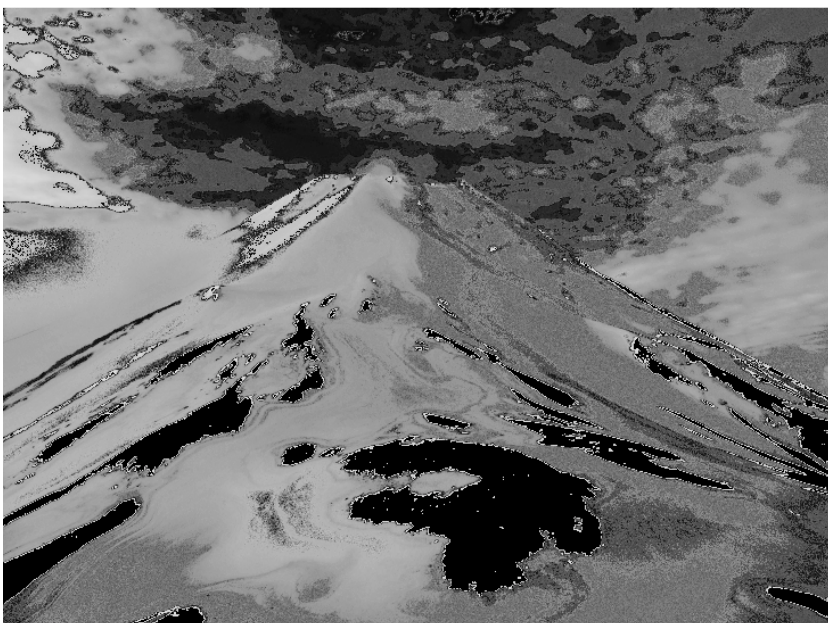
The weather was crap and upon reaching Syme there was no possibility of getting anywhere near the summit. In fact, the only difficult decision was whether to stay put and chill out, or head back down to civilisation for dinner at Steve's parent's house. It was a tough call, but lethargy set in and before we knew it we were snoozing the afternoon away, reading the paper and winning (or for some, losing) at 500.

It wasn't all a piece of cake though. We did climb 1,200m, including up 796 man-made steps, followed by a slog up a scree 'down escalator', which sent the pulse racing and pounded the morale to close to breaking point. Our reward was Syme Hut, possibly shortened over the

years from Sublime Hut, given the amazing view and location, which the weather gods briefly allowed us to appreciate, around 7.06pm.

Sunday came and we slept in. We played cards. We unsuccessfully waited the bad weather out. Finally, at 10.30, we faced up to the fact that we were going to have to go outside into the wilds....

Left: 7.06 pm



# Mt Climie (Upper Hutt)

## Medium Daywalk - December 18

by Natalie Jacobson

The book “Day Walks of Greater Wellington” warns “be prepared for stunning views, this is an astounding viewpoint”. It is fair to say that the less prepared, the better . . . due to cloud we saw little more than each other, the dirt track and roadside vegetation. However, on the bright side if we had been captivated by the “astounding” views we may have overlooked other attractions the day had to offer such as a misplaced talkie walkie, a spaceship, and of course the exceptional company.

It was a group of five led by Mike Phethean. Actually, perhaps facilitated is a better word. He graciously stepped aside for Pete to lead the way to the start of the walk in Upper Hutt and for Marc to prolong the walk to summit number 2. In fact the only thing Mike appeared to lead the group on was an unprovoked attack against South Australians. However, the groups safety was undoubtedly at the forefront of his mind when he didn't delegate the navigation to Lisa . . . despite the walk being a one way track on a dirt road.

Lunch was in the shelter of roadside scrub and proved to be a gastronomical event of international representation. By far the most impressive was Marc's French 3 course meal. Of particular cultural significance, following the cheese platter, was dessert; home made bouch de noel (Christmas loaf: sponge cake, chocolate and jam). In the spirit of team work, I selflessly aided Marc in the disposal of this heart attack risk. The only thing missing from this lunch time cuisine was a glass of vino . . . highlighting the cultural non-inclusiveness of the clubs no alcohol rule.

It took us about 3 hours to walk up a steady and decent incline, and then turn around and return in misty and humid weather. Despite seeing very little, this did provide us the opportunity to have profound and insightful deliberations. We chose not to take that opportunity and rambled aimlessly instead (a little like this write-up). Topics covered included: the crazy hare and hound game which involves people chasing other people blowing horns in the Lakes District; the rationale behind the size of koalas peanut size brains; and varying interpretations of a metal structure (a spaceship was the most plausible).

Overall it was a wonderful day, and as the weather cleared we even sneaked a glimpse of a view.



# South west ridge of Aspiring

by Yibai He



*Bonar glacier, S/w Ridge of Aspiring at the background – photo by Yibai He*

I remembered vividly the sleepless nights I had in Plateau hut at the base of Mt Cook last year, also in November, the wind was shaking the hut so violently the first thing I did next morning was to climb underneath the hut to make sure the cables holding the hut were still in place, as the hut is perched precariously on the edge of the glacier. The weather didn't clear up through the week and I was glad to be able to get out before it turned really nasty.

It seemed this year I was going to follow the same destiny again, every day I developed a routine of walking to the Hermitage hotel, ordering a coffee and a cake, then staring aimless into the gloomy hooker valley, with my thoughts wandering away like the clouds in the valley, drifted randomly and swiftly across the south face of Cook... On Sunday I met fellow WTMC members Sharron, David, Mike and Fraser coming out of Murchison hut. They certainly had more exercise than I did but same weather prevented them from a more serious climb. I left Mt Cook village half dismayed half relieved that I could at least leave that pointy peak for another year.

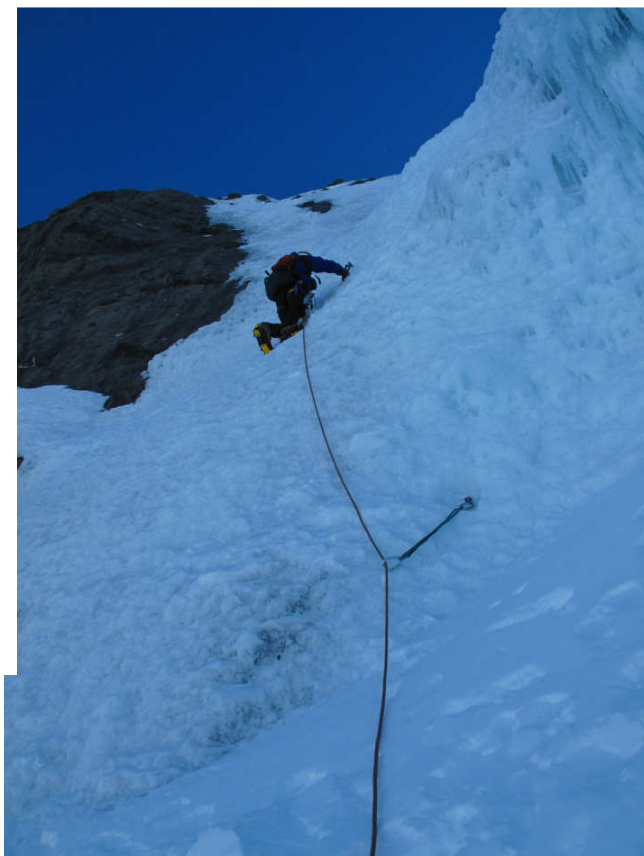
Luckily this year my friend Bruno in Wanaka showed a bit of sympathy and agreed to be my

climbing partner for my second week of holiday. A former Wellingtonian, Bruno has very impressive climbing records, including a recent ascent of east ridge of Mt Cook. Bruno suggested south west ridge of Aspiring, a classic route as well as the first ascent route. We left Wanaka on the early Tuesday morning. Our plan was simple: Walking in that morning and camp on the Bonar glacier, climb it next day and out by following day. Being almost dormant for last few years I found myself constantly staring into Bruno's diminishing figure in dismay.



*Above: On the Ramp – Photo by Bruno Geldermans*

*Right: Bruno leads the first pitch of the couloir – Photo by Yibai He*



The Weather was just perfect that night, we were the only party camped out on the glacier, and both of us managed to get some reasonable sleep after a tiring day. At 4:00 AM we started walking, the moon was shining brightly and Bruno switched his light off, the only sound was our crampons falling on to the firm snow, it was in perfect condition and we had no problem to navigate to the base of s/w ridge. The climb was quite straightforward and we gained height quickly, stopping occasionally to admire the early morning sun casting a perfect pyramid shadow of Aspiring into the distant cloud. At the couloir we started to pitch, the ice was bit rotten but the climb itself was not difficult. We reached the summit at 9:30 AM, about the same time I would normally have my first cup coffee in the office. We ran into two Russian climbers at the top so few handshakes and photo sessions as usual. Our descent route was via the North ridge and the Ramp, which is the common ascent route. The Ramp is infamous for its fatalities and I would hate to come down on it in soft snow, which it would be later in the day. We abseiled the last section of the Ramp as the snow was replaced by loose rocks. Few hours later we were in the good hand of Jo the French ridge hut warden. Listening to the amusing story of a German girl who had been told by an unobservant Doc

staff member that the track from the base of the mountain to French ridge hut is quite easy, which took her good 7 hours.

I treasure the experience to be with the Alps again, something I really missed in the past few years: To see the darkness of the night, to listen to the silence of the mountains, and to appreciate the life in this lifeless landscape.



*View from the summit, Mt Cook at distance – Photo by Yibai He*

## Ball Pass – Mount Cook Medium ALP1 - December 10 to 12

by Stephen Healey

Flying into Christchurch late Friday we had two days and a dodgy weather forecast to get ourselves over Ball Pass.

Three of the group had gone ahead early, which left six of us arriving on the 8:15 pm flight to grab the two remaining cars and drive to Mt Cook. The weather on the way down was gloomy, very windy and threatening to rain. Our main hope rested with a promised weather



window between two fronts—one Friday/ Saturday morning and the second rolling in Sunday evening—and I didn't feel overly confident at this point.

We arrived at Unwin Hut well after midnight and found the other three fast asleep. Tony said we would take our time in the morning and wait for the weather to clear so I was surprised then to see him up before 7:00 am. We all rose at our leisure over the next hour or so to see Mount Cook covered in cloud but the patches of blue sky were increasing and the wind was dropping. After a bit of discussion we opted for a cooked breakfast to start the day so we wandered up to the Hermitage. We had a very long and substantial breakfast at the buffet there, going back for seconds—and thirds in many cases—a fabulous way to start the day. Finishing up we dropped off two of the cars at the Tasman Valley road end and then ferried the crew up to the Hooker car park.

This was a new experience for me—we had an 8 to 9 hour day ahead of us and we were turning up to the start of the track at 11:30 am! But Tony said 'don't worry, we still have 10 hours of light left in the day'. Crossing over the Hooker River bridge there was a bus load of tourists queuing on the other side to cross and for the first half an hour we passed a constant stream of people out sightseeing. But soon enough we passed through the little swing gate on the other side of the bridge to Stocking Stream and the tourists promptly stopped. In fact we saw no-one else again until we descended past Caroline Hut where there were two people below us who had apparently turned back from trying to cross the pass.

We wandered up the valley gaining height slowly until we were a few hundred metres above the Hooker Glacier terminal lake and sidling high to bypass eroded slips falling into the lake. The Hooker Hut across the valley looked very sad and lonely, completely cut off by eroded slopes all around. The access to the Copeland Ridge looks almost as isolated now as well.

We reached the access gully that would take us to the Playing Fields and started up that at about 3:00 pm. It was filled with snow for about two thirds of its height so the ice axe and crampons were quickly unleashed. We continued up the slope which got progressively steeper towards the top.

Just a short distance below the crest there was a rocky step with a small steeper snow slope to the left. This proved a little daunting for some of us so most of us took our crampons off to scramble up the rock, putting them back on a couple of minutes later to complete the final snow slope.

Popping out up onto the Playing Fields the view was just fantastic—from Mt Sefton to La Perouse, and of course Mt Cook dominating all. But it was now about 4:45 pm and we still had a way to go so Sharron and Mike headed off to investigate the route. My route guide showed a zig zag up to the final sidle out across a ledge above bluffs on the ridge off Mt Rosa. However, we decided to go straight up a snow slope to avoid the zigzag. Jackie had said that we should follow the recommended route but was overruled—and in hindsight she was correct as the slope got a bit too steep and we ended up crossing back across the snow to a point we could have reached probably more easily by following the longer zig zag route.



In the meantime Mike and Sharron had found the required cairns and we hopped off the snow and followed good rock ledges around the corner where the final approaches to Ball Pass were revealed for the first time.

We stopped here for a while with everyone taking, or getting in, photos with blue skies above, Ball Pass close at hand and Mt Cook towering above - so this was the place to linger. Unfortunately it was getting late so too soon we had to push on. We dropped down the side of the face to get below a bluff and then continued our ascent to the pass, finally topping out about 7:50 pm. The full splendour of the Tasman peaks then opened up ahead with a clear blue sky above. This was just fantastic.

After the obligatory photo stop we dropped into the basin below. We had a bit of a scout around for campsites but eventually opted to erect the tents in the snow basin directly below the pass. This is a fantastic area to camp with the low and middle peaks of Cook towering above you and the Malte Brun Range and Tasman Glacier stretching out for miles in front of you. I could have stayed for an extra day here just lying in the sun and enjoying the view. By now though it was starting to get really late and after digging out flat spots and building snow walls 9:00 pm had arrived and we hadn't started dinner yet.

No chance either to get out the Frisbee unfortunately. It would have been a Frisbee height record for me and I had been looking forward to it. After a few hitches with the cooker we eventually ate around 11:00 pm before finally collapsing in the pit.

We were looking forward to a good night's sleep but Mother Nature had other ideas. The wind now got up and buffeted the tents throughout the night. I found it very difficult to get to sleep with the constant flapping and later when getting up to answer the call of nature about 4:00 am it seemed as though I hadn't been to sleep at all.

Eventually morning did arrive and we rose to find the clear sky had disappeared and instead we had light rain falling and low cloud covering the mountains above us. But as we packed up and headed off the weather progressively improved. While we continued to get the odd spit of rain for the next hour or two the weather was actually ok and got better and better as the day progressed.

We dropped down onto the glacier and then climbed up on to the Ball Ridge. Here the snow disappeared, so the crampons came off and stayed off. There were ongoing patches of snow but nothing requiring crampons again. Soon we arrived at Caroline Hut where we had brunch and admired the views for some time. Eventually though it was time to move on and we had fun route-finding down the remainder of the ridge. Some of it was straightforward enough while some was a bit obscure although easy enough in the weather we had as we could see where to go—but in a whiteout this would be interesting in places. Arriving at Ball Shelter we didn't want this to end so we boiled the billy here and lay in the sun eating and drinking and enjoying the surroundings. But finally we could put it off no longer and we shouldered packs and headed off down the valley and back to the cars.

This was such a brilliant trip, and anyone who is comfortable with ice axe and crampons should seriously consider adding this to their 'Bucket List' of trips.

Driving back to Christchurch that evening we decided to stop at a pub in Geraldine where one of the options was a large 'All Day Breakfast'. This proved impossible to resist for many of us so for the second time in two days we piled into mushrooms, sausages, bacon, hash browns, eggs, tomatoes, etc—fantastic.

Thanks heaps to Jackie and Tony for organising the trip for us, and to Ant, Kevin, Mike, Pete, Sharron, and Spencer for the company.



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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 Hans Wiskerke, winner of the December draw, for the Papatahi Crossing 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.*

# KAHURANGI NATIONAL PARK

## MOUNTAIN BIKE TRIALS

Mountain bikers can begin riding Kahurangi National Park's Flora Saddle to Barron Flat and Kill Devil tracks now but are reminded they cannot begin riding the Heaphy Track until 1 May next year (2011), says the Department of Conservation.

The DOC comments follow the announcement by the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) that it has approved a revised Kahurangi National Park Management Plan which allows mountain biking trials over three years on three tracks. The mountain biking trial on the Heaphy Track will take place during the five-month winter season only, 1 May to 30 September. Year-round trials are being run on the Flora Saddle to Barron Flat and Kill Devil tracks. The trials run until the end of 2013.

DOC Nelson/Marlborough Conservator Neil Clifton said mountain bikers and walkers would need to show consideration for each other on the three tracks.

"We will be monitoring the mountain biking trials to evaluate the social and environmental effects of the mountain biking. This will include assessing impacts on other people's use and enjoyment of the tracks and mountain bikers' adherence to the Mountain Bikers Code of Conduct and other plan requirements.

"Feedback on the trials is invited from all track users. The monitoring and feedback will be taken into account in determining whether or not mountain biking should continue on the tracks after the trial period and, if it was to continue, the measures needed to manage it.

"The plan contains provisions to protect wildlife and their habitat from mountain biking impacts. Bikes must only be ridden on the formed tracks. Bike riding is not allowed at night on the Heaphy and Flora Saddle to Barron Flat tracks to protect nocturnal giant *Powelliphanta* snails and great spotted kiwi/rorua.

"Signs and other information will alert riders to watch out for *Powelliphanta* snails on several short sections of the Heaphy Track through snail habitat.

"Bikes can be ridden day or night on the Kill Devil Track. Mountain biking is now allowed as far as Waingaro Forks Hut."

## FROM THE GREEN CROCS

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year break, WT&MC is back up and running already, our first club trips of the year battled the stormy weather over Wellington Anniversary weekend. Sandra and I were battling the crowds at the Big Day Out, which was a fantastic day, despite the rain.

I know that you will have enjoyed reading the club's journal over the break, many thanks to Tony and Jackie for another superb job!

There are a few things coming up that you will probably want to note in your diaries. Firstly, our Info Night (aka New Members Night) is on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you have friends, family or workmates who may be interested in our club, that night will be a great chance for them to come along and find out all about us. Of course we welcome newcomers at any time, but the Info Night is a one-stop shop with all of the clubs activities being promoted! If you want to help out on the night, our Promotions officer Megan would love to hear from you!

The next highlight is the Photo Competition on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, entries close on February 9<sup>th</sup>, you can check the club website for details of categories and other important information. The photo comp is certainly one of the social night highlights of the year, and a Wednesday night not to be missed!

Last but certainly not least is the Annual General Meeting (our 64<sup>th</sup> if you were wondering) on April 6<sup>th</sup>. While I appreciate that many people find AGMs rather dull, it is important that members have an opportunity to discuss the clubs affairs. The committee is happy to deal with issues and questions at any time, but the AGM is the perfect time to ask that big (or little) question.

One of the most important parts of the AGM is electing a new committee, we will have 3 vacancies on committee for the 2011/12 year, President, Newsletter Editor, and Assistant Chief Guide. If you are keen to help out the club in one of these roles, you can talk to the person currently in the role (or myself) about what is involved. Nominations can be made for any committee position, even if the current office-holder is planning to continue. While it has been a while since we had a vote for a committee role, that doesn't mean it can't happen this year. Nominations will close on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. See me if you need a nomination form.

There are lots of ways you can help out the club if being on committee is not your scene. We always need people to do slideshows on Wed nights, write trip reports for the newsletter, greet people at the door, lead trips, drive the van, look after the gear cupboard, and more. You can talk to the appropriate committee person, or ask me if you are not sure who to talk to, if you'd like to help.

You can always contact me on [president@wtmc.org.nz](mailto:president@wtmc.org.nz), or I am usually around on club nights

**Darren Hammond**