



TONGARIRO TIMES

The newsletter for the Tongariro Natural History Society
March 2008

Prepared by Sarah Gibb, Director

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The Current Executive Committee

The committee was appointed at our AGM in November 2007 and are available to discuss any ideas you have for the society.

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Paul Green	Dept. of Conservation, Private Bag, Turangi	07 3868600	pgreen@doc.govt.nz
Frank Katavich	1277 Dominion Rd, Mt Roskill, Auckland	09 6206650	info@chainandrigging.co.nz
Bob Stothart	4/ 326 The Terrace, Wellington	04 385 0240	stothart@ihug.co.nz

We would like to thank John Pearce for his time on the committee. John recently resigned from the executive but remains a supportive Tongariro Natural History Society member.

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Our long term volunteers finish for the season:

Already it is time to say goodbye to the long term volunteers who have worked so hard with us this season.

Our thanks to:

Lee Mathews and Todd McLay from Massey University, New Zealand, Malte Thies, Tadzio Roche and Friedemann Goral from Germany, and Victor Zylberberg from France.

It has been a great experience for all involved.



Malte's highlight!



TUSSOCK TRAVERSE

The Land Rover Tussock Traverse event was a great success. We have to give some credit to the perfect weather, but most to the **44 volunteers** who helped on the day. We had 205 entries and no major incidences at all. To those volunteers, thank you so much. The event raised \$7,100!



Andy mans his BBQ

Marshalls return to Whakapapa in the Discovery loaned by Land Rover for the event.



Maureen grabbed a coffee before the first runners came in.



Sally-Anne decided marshalling wasn't so hard after all.

Some of the team walk out from their positions after the event.



Hi - can you please pass on my congratulations to your team for running such a successful event on Saturday. Well managed from go to whoa, great people and of course the venue was super. Good work from you all. Jonathan Dodd

Exciting follow on to the event:

Jonathan Holmes came to run the Tussock Traverse. He had a good day, came to the spot prize presentation and won the Land Rover mountain bike!

Jonathan has found a unique way to say thank you.

He is going to cycle (on a road bike) from Whakapapa to Wellington, raising money for our society!

His target is \$500 but we are confident he will raise more than this.

The money raised will go toward purchasing more bait stations @ \$12 each for the Mt Pihanga - Rotopounamu Restoration project. We are going to extend our pest control area up there and will eventually put in another 500 stations.

We have set up a fundraising page for him online www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/JonathanHolmes.

He will start the ride from the DOC Visitors Centre at Whakapapa riding to Bulls on Saturday 19/4 (approx. 187km) and then from Bulls down to the DOC office in Wellington on Sunday 20/4 (approx. 149km). A couple of DOC staff in Turangi have offered to ride with him. We'll have our Land Rover as a support vehicle and see if we can generally raise some awareness of us and the park.

If you would like to support this venture with a donation, just go on to the website above and push the 'make a donation' button and follow the payment instruction. The payment comes directly to TNHS, or feel free to send in a cheque.

We have to admire his gumption!

Hapuawhenua Viaduct restoration update:

On Tuesday, March 25th, a small presentation will take place at the viaduct. Representatives from the Stout Trust will present a cheque for \$75,000 to us. We were actually granted this in 2006, but we needed to secure all the funding for the project to make it viable to accept the Stout trust grant.

The approval of the application meant the first monetary grant to the viaduct project, and prompted further grants from other funding bodies, especially including the Department of Conservation's National Historic Fund, which will enable the \$800,000 restoration to be completed. The project team is aiming to finish by November, the centennial of the viaduct. Stage one involves cleaning the structure and identifying areas requiring corrosion protection, and Stage two is the construction of a new visitor walkway across the viaduct, which will form part of the Old Coach Road historic walkway.

Michael Reps, Client Manager for Guardian Trust, said it was very pleasing to administer the grant to a project of such significance in New Zealand's social history. "It is exactly the sort of work the Stout Trust was created to support, and it is doubly gratifying to know that this grant made it possible for the TNHS to obtain the rest of the funding needed. When complete, walking across the viaduct will be an amazing experience of a natural historic site that all Kiwis will have the opportunity to enjoy."

Artist impression of the completed walkway over the viaduct.



Coming Field Trip:

Weekend up the mountain at Iwikau, Ruapehu

April 11 – 13, 2008 – Hosted by Bob & Margaret Stothart and Frank Katavich.

PROGRAMME.

Friday – arrival is welcome at the Serac lodge any time after midday. A light dinner (probably soup and rolls) will be provided.

If you're arriving after dark there will be a bright light shining on the path. There is a name plate on the lodge.

Saturday – The featured walk will be with Frank, walking above Pinnacle Ridge and following the ridge down to Ridge track. Emphasis on ridges here!

Bob & Margaret will also be leading a walk to look at the Lord of the Rings filming locations and our TNHS planting up there.

There's always the option to do your own thing too.

Sunday – no plans.

Accommodation is at the Serac Lodge, in bunk rooms at a cost of \$15/person/night. Overflow will go into Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club (next door)

You will need to bring your own linen/sleeping bag.

Catering is provided for dinners on Friday and Saturday nights although help preparing on the day would be appreciated. Bring your own breakfast, snacks and lunch food. BYO wine etc.

Gear. Be prepared for summer heat, alpine sunburn, and cold alpine snaps.

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Please return this form and payment by **April 11th** to
TNHS, PO Box 238, Turangi or email Elle at info@tongariro.org.nz with any queries.

Iwikau, Ruapehu April 11 – 13, 2008.

Names:

Contact Tel:

Bed Friday x \$15

Bed Saturday x \$15

Catering x \$15

Total Cost: