



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING
& MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (INC)
P.O. Box 1217 Palmerston North

NEWSLETTER

4/76

Hon. Secretary,
Karyn Bishop, 84-925
Membership Enquiries
Janet Maessen, 71-782.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for the year ending February 28th, 1977 are now due. When payment is made each member is required to fill in their names and addresses on 12 newsletter labels to reduce the typist's workload. If you do not wish to renew your subscription please notify the Secretary.

Family membership	\$7.00
Senior	6.00
Junior	4.00

COMING EVENTS

24th – 25th APRIL BUSHCRAFT – THE CAMELBACKS

A chance not to be missed. Join the club president and learn how to be comfortable in the bush, how not to get lost, cook etc. This pleasant 'retreat' lies beyond the Levin Metropolis in the Western Tararuas.

Leader : Trevor Bissell, phone 68-644
Grading: Easy
Depart Super Save Car Park: 7.00 a.m.
Cost : \$2.00

29th APRIL CLUB NIGHT

7.30 p.m. at the Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 college St. John Short will show slides on trekking in Nepal and also of his experiences during Volunteer Service Abroad work in Afghanistan.

SUPPER DUTIES: Tim Short
Sue Streeter
Kathy Hindmarsh

1st – 2nd MAY MOKAI PATEA RANGE

A chance for newer members to gain experience in navigation on the open tops. Also a pleasant river scramble down the Kawhatau River. Storm gear should be taken. This rare chance of seeing the Ruahines north of 'Rangi' should not be missed.

Names to: Peter Darragh, phone Fg. 5633
Grading: Medium
Cost: \$3.50
Depart Supersave Car Park: 7.00 a.m.

2nd MAY CROW HUT

An enjoyable scramble up the Kawhatau River. Meet the weekenders on their retreat from the 'mighty' Northern Ruahines.

Leader:	Ian Hoare, Phone 83-448
Grading:	Medium
Cost:	\$3.50
Depart Supersave Car Park:	7.00 a.m.

7th – 9th MAY MIDDLE CROSSING (TARARUAS)

A chance for the fitter members to do one of the "classic" trips in the Tararuas. Storm gear etc. should be taken as much tops travel will be necessary.

Leader:	Keith Margain, phone 79-303
Grading:	Fitness Essential
Cost:	Approx. \$6.50
Depart Supersave Car Park:	6.30 p.m. Friday.

8th MAY PANATEWAEWAE STREAM

An easy scramble up a Tararua Stream for those of us of lesser fitness or who want an easy Sunday in the sun.

Names to:	Heather Crabb, phone 77-668
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	\$2.50
Depart Supersave Car Park:	7.00 a.m.

10th MAY COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30 p.m. at Trevor Bissell's Flat 1, 378 Botanical Road.

15th – 16th MAY RANGIWAHIA WORK PARTY

The 'Rangi' track badly needs cutting. Also some work on the hut may be necessary. Work parties are traditionally enjoyable occasions and hopefully people will make a special effort to attend this trip.

Leader:	Ian Hoare, Phone 83-448
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	\$2.90
Depart Supersave Car Park:	7.00 a.m.

16th MAY RANGIWAHIA WORK PARTY

For those of us who can't make the weekend trip a chance to contribute to the big effort.

Leader:	Ian Hoare, Phone 83-448
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	\$2.90
Depart Supersave Car Park:	7.00 a.m.

20th MAY

Closing date for entries in the Photographic Competition.

22nd – 23rd MAY ROCKCLIMBING INSTRUCTION – TITAHI BAY

Have you ever had a desire to become a mountain goat? Experience the thrill of sitting atop a rock pinnacle or lying in the sun at Titahi Bay.

Leader: Tim Short, phone 76-906 (during work hours.)
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$5.00
Depart Supersave: 7.00 a.m.

23rd MAY ROCKCLIMBING – TITAHI BAY

Join the weekenders on the sunny slopes of Titahi Bay.

Leader: Tim Short, phone 76-906 (during work hours.)
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$5.00
Depart Supersave: 7.00 a.m.

27rd MAY CLUB NIGHT

Annual Photographic Competition 7.30 p.m. in the Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College St.

29th – 30th MAY RANGIWAHIA – OROUA RIVER

Explore the wilderness beyond 'Rangi'. Wander down the Oroua River visiting such attractions as the grand complex known as the Heritage Lodge. Storm gear required.

Names to: Ian Hoare, phone 83-448
Grading: Medium
Cost: \$3.50
Depart Supersave: 7.00 a.m.

30th MAY IRON GATES HUT

An easy wander up the Oroua River visiting such attractions as the above mentioned dwelling.

Names to: Ian Hoare, phone 83-448
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$2.80
Depart Supersave: 7.00 a.m.

NOTICES:

COLOUR SLIDES COMPETITION RULES

1. A competitor may enter any number of slides.
2. A slide may be entered in one class only.
3. There will be two categories:
Novice – those who have not previously been placed in a slide competition.
Veteran – all others.
4. There will be three classes, all of which must have a tramping or mountaineering flavour.
 - (a) people – those slides in which trampers and other mountain people constitute the main interest.
 - (b) Natural History – Flora and Fauna.
 - (c) General – slides in which interest is predominately scenic.

5. No slide previously entered in a P.N.T.M.C. competition may be entered.
6. 1st and 2nd places will be awarded in all classes.
The judges decision is final.
7. Each slide must be accompanied by an entrance fee of 5c.
8. First place winners will receive two thirds of the money collected in the class, the balance going to the second placegetter.
9. To ensure slides are projected the right way all slide frames should contain a do in the bottom left hand corner when held in hand for viewing. The entrant's initials should appear somewhere on the frame.
10. All entries must be handed in to 28 Carroll Street or a Committee member, by 20th May.
11. Late entries will be accepted up to the evening of judging if accompanied by a 5c late fee in addition to the 5c entry fee.
12. Each slide must be taken by the person under whose name it is entered.

PRINT COMPEITION

There will also be a competition for black and white or colour prints not larger than 7" X 10". Rules apply as for the slide competition. Rule No. 9 can be deleted and in its place read: All prints must have entrant's name or initials on the back and may be titled.

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

Patron and Auditor	-	Lawson Pither
President	-	Trevor Bissell – Newsletter Printer
Vice President	-	Ian Hoare – Trip Convenor
Secretary/Treasurer	-	Karyn Bishop
Committee	-	Peter Darragh – Librarian
	-	Vivien Mawson – Newsletter Editor
	-	Heather Crabb – Typist
	-	Janet Maessen – New Membership Enquiries.

Ross Meder, Sue Streeter, Bill Frecklington (co-opted on to committee – Social convenors.)

John Williams will continue to operate Gear Hire from 28 Carroll St.

CLUB SONG BOOKS

The new Club song book "Trudge" is available at \$1.00 per copy from the Secretary – Karyn Bishop. It contains many well known tramping songs – plus a few new ones. Every good trumper will find a "Trudge" will lighten his load.

Resignation from the club has been received from Owen Mills.

VANDALISM AND OTAKI HYDRO

A request has been received from the Horowhenua Electric Power Board, for any of our members to report damage they may find has occurred to the board's rain gauges or recording equipment. Records collected by us of this equipment assists in the planning of future huts, bridges, tracks etc.

PAST EVENTS

6th – 7th MARCH – OHAU – CARKEEK RIDGE – WAITEWAEWAE

Four little trampers walked up the river And one went to sleep at South Ohau!

Ohhh!

Three little trampers walked up to Te Matawai Hut for nibbles and gargles. The sun was hot. Two pints of sweat later a state of collapse developed in the party on reaching the Arete Tarn. Drinks, drinks, drinks and lunch.

The afternoon was spent traversing the Carkeek Ridge with good views of the Park and Waiohine Rivers. Eventually the Carkeek Hut was reached and a very friendly dog formed the welcoming committee. His owner, Roger, was off shooting in the head of the Park.

The Carkeek Ridge continued in easy bush with a gentle gradient until it dropped steeply down to the Park Forks. Nichols is 2,000 feet above Park Forks! Sweat, gruel, mumble, snitch, struggle, rest and repeat. Anyway the sunset was a beautiful sight from the top of Nichols. Nichols Hut, dinner and Beddybys.

Sunday: It was decided to go out via Shoulder Knob, Waitewaewae Hut, Boyd Wilson Creek, Micko, Waitohu Stream and road end.

At Waitewaewae Roy decided to go out via Otaki forks as his feet were blistered. Then there were only two trampers. A lot of leatherwood was encountered in the vicinity of Mick, but a reasonable track was followed through most of it. All thoughts of visiting the plane crash near Mick were forgotten owing to the lack of time and the most convenient ridge was taken down to the Waitohu.

Slacker No. 1 was located at the Railway Station in Otaki half an hour later, and all lived happily after.

Starters: Keith Margrain (Slacker No. 1), Roy Wilson, Ross Meder, Trevor Bissell.

28th MARCH KAPITI ISLAND

There were to be eight but at 6 a.m. only four hardy trampers assembled in the rain at the car park. Another was soon woken from her slumber – Australians not being used to 6 a.m. starts. Half an hour later we were on our way minus one petrol cap.

Paddling out to the boat most managed to get frozen big toes but thankfully a smooth crossing followed. As everyone pulled on their boots on the beach the boat disappeared into the distance.

It was decided to follow the coast round to the north rather than go up to the summit (as our Aussi friend was minus boots) as the track was very slippery due to the damp conditions.

Thus followed a slow meander along the rocks as everyone listened to the birds and enjoyed the scenery to the background music being supplied by the rain.

The boys has a little play on the big slabs of rock and it even seemed likely that Julian would be left forever at the top of one but finally managed to descend down to ground again. A large rock bivvy was found for lunch and food was munched by all.

Three mad members of the party then decided to jog round to the two caves at the point while the remaining two climbed up to the top of the ridge to check up on the others' progress.

While the party waited for the boat a duck was disturbed from its sleep, several keas decided that they had had enough photos taken of them but the wekas must take the prize for the cheekiest birds around.

The barbeque was cancelled in preference of doughnuts from the Hot Bread Shop and then everyone adjourned to Trevor's place for fish and chips.

The drowned rats were: Trevor Bissell, Julian Dalefield, Ross Meder, Kathy Hindmarsh and Joanne Keane (our Aussi.)

10th – 11th APRIL – NGAMOKO RANGE

Recently a bunch of brave knights were seen disappearing over the peak of Tunupo and long the mighty Ngamoko Range and braved the feat of the mist and wind blown dust and dirt.

Navigation was encountered and overcome with courage and expertise. They then decided that they weren't liable to get out of this alive, but eventually arrived at Howletts Hut where a soloist was heard to be lamenting a bedtime song.

Next day arrived as usually they do with mist. A sudden drop into the Oroua River and a hiss and a roar and a shower of stones as they passed by the Manawatus and raced neck and neck against two shooters with big hooters.

Trip members: Bill Frecklington, Roy Wilson, Neil Challanders, Trevor Bissell.

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PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.
PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1975/76

Dear Members,

The past twelve months have seen the club advancing in many fields, with members showing a greatly increased degree of respect for the mountains, through knowledge and experience, and a vital awareness of the continuity of a healthy environment.

But first we will look at the Club's not so recent past, and we see a Club's development from small beginnings with the original concepts: to encourage tramping, climbing, bushcraft and an appreciation of nature", which exists as strong as ever almost ten years later. We must examine the present, and ask ourselves: "What are we doing? What do we want to do? And where are we heading?" Our club does not want to accelerate, but we also cannot afford to stagnate. We must provide the interest, the means and the enthusiasm to enable us to carry out the tenth anniversary of our club's foundation. The Club having seen almost one decade now seems a dwindling membership, and a Club desperately short of officials. This perhaps is only a cycle but in order to survive we need planning, direction and leadership for the future.

The year's activities have catered for a wide range of interests for as the Club has diversified its concepts, we have become aware of other affiliated organizations, in that we are moving more in the direction of interclub participation.

The combined functions were: M.T. & S.C. Sports Weekend, W.A.M.C. Sports Weekend, M.U.A.C. Debate, M.U.A.C. combined effort in the production of the Club song book "Trudge", and the scheduled gourmet dinner trip with W.T. & M.C. During the year instruction courses were run to increase knowledge and competence in bushcraft, navigation, river crossing, search and rescue, rockclimbing and snowcraft. In total for the financial year the number of tramping and climbing trips was 54 for weekend and longer, and 22 day successfully run trips. The areas visited were: the Tararua Ranges, the Ruahine Ranges, the Kaweka Ranges, Tongariro National Park, Mt. Egmont National Park, Kaiti Island, Titahi Bay, Makuri Caves, North-West Nelson, Arthur's Pass and surrounding area. Other events were: a Conservation trip to the Ruahine Ranges to plant Pinus Sylvester trees to prevent soil erosion; several maintenance work parties to Rangiwahia Hut; a static display in the Square as part of the Come Alive campaign; a Club team in the Jaycees raft race in which the Club entry was placed tenth; our annual Christmas Dinner at Rangiwahia Club Hut; a Christmas social and three barbecues; the attendance by many members at other district S.A.R. exercises and the Club representation on genuine searches.

Other areas where private climbing trips went which club members attended were: Nelson Lakes National Park, Mt. Cook National Park, Mt. Aspiring National Park, the Darran Mts. and the Manawatu Gorge. The standard of climbing within the Club has greatly increased with many members now turning their sights towards this technical area. As climbing is a highly specialized area, I recommended and encouraged private climbing trips whenever possible, to those that are skillfully competent. The Club continues to instruct in the very basics of climbing in the Snowcraft and rockclimbing courses held regularly during the year.

The executive Committee meetings have had good attendance over the past twelve months with Committee members getting down to their tasks enthusiastically. The Committee's job is to administer and to manage with good liaison between Committee and general members being most essential to ensure that a flow of information is passed on concerning matters of complaint and suggestions. During the year the Committee squashed the party gear hire levy, promoted the song book, promoted the Christmas social. It protested against: bulldozed tracks in the Tararua and Ruahine Ranges, possible roading of the Greenstone Valley near Queenstown and the proposed Otaki Power Project.

Our monthly Clubnights have continued to have a good regular attendance. The meetings have comprised slide evenings, slide competition, film evenings, debating, first aid

instruction and barbecues.

The newsletter has continued to provide a good service of ready information and good public relations and members are asked to take full advantage of the space provided for trip accounts.

The Club has continued to observe an unwritten policy, that is to have a ready source of gear available for hire to members and outside bodies, for it to be safe, well maintained and inspected before it is hired out.

During the past year many Clubs voiced strong opposition and representation concerning the proposed Otaki Power Project. We may have won a battle, but as there are plans for the utilisation of other river catchments of the Tararua Mountain system, we must remain constantly alert. In the years ahead we must as individuals, if our Club doesn't, mount our own personal conservation campaigns. In an aim to strive to preserve what we have got, to embark upon others in education in order to carry out that vital original concept, "an appreciation of nature."

I have talked much about the past, the present, the future and the year's activities but to whom all this is responsible, is to you, the members. On behalf of the whole Club I would like to thank dearly Mr. Owen Jensen for his services and support over the past number of years that he has upheld the office of Patron. I would also like to thank my Committee for their voluntary and dedicated services and to the members who supported the Club and its trips, hoping that you will continue to patronize our great club in the future.

I wish my successor and his incoming Committee all the best. I now therefore, give the Club my blessings, for may it continue in its prosperity, its warmth and affection, as it has done so in the past.

T.A. Short
President 1975/76