

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



## NEWSLETTER

3/77

Hon. Secretary,  
Karyn Bishop, 84-925  
Membership Enquiries  
Janet Maesson, 73-524.

### COMING EVENTS

#### 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> OHAU -CARKEEK RIDGE – WAITEWAEWAE

Join Trevor on a Tararua trip which will test your stamina and also perhaps your navigational skills. This trip starts from beyond Levin and finishes (after much wandering) at Otaki Forks. Good fitness and storm gear will be necessary.

Leader:	Trevor Bissell, Ph. 68-644
Grading:	Fitness Essential
Cost:	\$4.50 Approx.
Depart Supersave:	6.30 p.m. Friday.

26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> March	WAITEWAEWAE	Easy
27 <sup>th</sup>	WAITEWAEWAE	Med.

These two trips provide a chance to see the hydro threatened beauty which exists in this Western Tararua valley beyond Otaki. Come and see this valley while you still can. You will see why it is essential to preserve its natural splendour.

Leader:	Trevor Bissell, Ph. 68-644
Grading:	As above.
Cost:	\$3.00 Approx.
Depart Supersave:	6.30 a.m.

#### 31<sup>st</sup> March ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering club will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1977 at 7.30 p.m. in the Society of Friend's Church Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North. Nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Auditor, not less than five committee members and Patron are required. A nomination form is enclosed with this newsletter. Nominations are to be handed to the Secretary before 7.30 p.m. on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Proposer, seconder and nominee must all be full members of the club, i.e. have had their applications for membership approved by the Committee.

#### AGENDA:

Apologies

Presentation of President's Report

Presentation of Treasurer's Report

Election of Office Bearers

Subscriptions

General Business.

2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> April NGAMOKO RANGE

Another 'tops' trip. This trip – a crossing of the Ruahines – should be top value. As open 'tops' are traversed full storm gear and a good standard of fitness are necessary.

Leader:	John Williams, Ph. 84-925
Grading:	Fit
Cost:	\$5.50 Approx.
Depart Supersave:	6.00 a.m.

2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> April IRON GATES HUT

A beautiful valley in the Western Ruahines beyond Apiti. The Oroua River has been the scene of some memorable club trips. Come and add further to the annals of history.

Leader:	John Williams, Ph. 84-925
Grading:	Medium
Cost:	\$2.50 Approx.
Depart Supersave:	6.30 a.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> April OROUA RIVER – HERITAGE LODGE

This opportunity of a gentle stroll should not be missed. One of the last trips before the summer sunshine becomes a thing of the past.

Leader:	John Williams, Ph. 84-925
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	\$2.50 Approx.
Depart Supersave:	6.30 a.m.

8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> April EASTER EGGMONT – ROUND THE MOUNTAIN

There can surely be no better way of spending the Easter break than being on the slopes of Egmont. Trips will probably be arranged for differing grades of fitness though the basic one will be of a medium grade.

Names to:	Keith Margrain, Ph. 79-303
Grading:	Medium
Cost:	\$7.00 Approx.
Depart Supersave:	7.00 a.m.

10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> April GIRDLESTONE SADDLE – AVALANCHE FLATS

This trip into the Tararuas beyond Levin should allow those who wish to mow lawns etc. before venturing into the hills this Easter the chance to do so.

Names to:	Keith Margrain, Ph. 79-303
Grading:	Medium
Cost:	\$1.80
Depart Supersave:	7.00 a.m.

11<sup>th</sup> April OHAU RIVER

The last river splash before the sun goes into hibernation. See the Avalanche Flats mob on their return journey.

Names to:	Keith Margrain, Ph. 79-303
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	\$1.80
Depart Supersave:	7.00 a.m.

16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> April FULL WAINGAWA RIVER

Waterfalls, bush bash, fun and frolic. All these features should make this trip (along with good views) something to remember. This river is probably one of the finest in the Eastern Tararuas, so bring storm gear etc. and don't make this opportunity wait until next summer.

Names to:	Roy Wilson, Ph. 84-925
Grading:	Fitness Essential
Cost:	\$4.00 approx.
Depart Supersave:	6.30 a.m.

16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> April BLUE RANGE – WAINGAWA RIVER

A chance of good views and easy river travel. Put a decent 'skite' line on your Tararua map.

Leader:	Roy Wilson, Ph. 84-925
Grading:	Fit
Cost:	\$4.00 approx.
Depart Supersave:	6.30 a.m.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> April BLUE RANGE

This range in the Eastern Tararuas is an offshoot of the main range. Though not as high many fine views are made possible for the not so fit or the just plain lazy.

Leader:	Roy Wilson, Ph. 84-925
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	\$4.00 approx.
Depart Supersave:	7.00 a.m.

#### 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> April HIKURANGI RANGE – WAIKAMAKA - MOKAI PATEA

This trip into the heart of the Ruahines is one big roundabout, offering grand panoramic views (if fine) as well as some of the lesser traveled river valleys of the middle Ruahines. A chance not to be missed.

Leader:	Kevin Pearce, Ph. 83-467
Grading:	Fitness Essential
Cost:	\$4.50 Approx.
Depart Supersave:	6.30 p.m. Friday.

#### 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> April ANZAC WEEKEND. ARMSTRONG SADDLE – WAIPAWA SADDLE

Past trips into this area of the Ruahines beyond Waipukurau have been of great value. Test your compass and tramping abilities in an area usually considered too distant for ordinary weekend tramping.

Leader:	Kevin Pearce, Ph. 83-467
Grading:	Medium
Cost:	\$4.50 Approx.
Depart Supersave:	7.00 a.m.

#### 28<sup>th</sup> April CLUB NIGHT

At the Society of Friends' Church Hall, 227 College St., Palmerston North, at 7.30 p.m. All welcome.

#### NOTICES

##### NEW MEMBERS

The committee has pleasure in welcoming the following new members to the club.

Colin Hoare	49 Burns Ave., Palmerston North. Ph. 83-448
Carol Nash	52 North St., Palmerston North.
Bruce Stout	523 A Ferguson St., Palm. North. " 79-139

#### PAST EVENTS

##### 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> February A MAIN RANGE S.K.

The odd wink of torch light to the north may or may not be Kevin and Keith. Paul Richardson of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club appears and states that he did not get away from Putara Hut until 4.30 a.m. He disappears south along the Dundas Ridge. Our party dribbles onto East Peak in ones and twos. A bright full moon provides nearly all the light one needs for walking. Keith and Kevin arrive bringing daylight with them. Torches are shoved into very light packs and we are moving again.

This is the ego trip of the Tararuas, Schormans Track to Kaitoke – nearly the whole length of the range in a weekend. At least 10 people are doing S.K's this weekend and seven of these belong to our club. A husband and wife team from the W.T.M.M.C. left Putara last night and have camped somewhere along the ridge. We catch up with them on Walker.

At Arete Tarn Ross decides to go with the main group via the Greater Northern Crossing to Holdsworth and thence via Totara Flats, Cone Saddle and the Tauherenikau River. We give Ross the 'dehy, fruit and instant pudding' and half of the Meuseli and keep the T.V.P. stew ourselves. He will be able to balance his diet by sharing his food with the others.

Kevin and Keith are carrying cold food only and Keith has no sleeping bag! Kevin lends his water bottle to the Main Range group and we part company.

Saturday was a long hot day and much liquid was drunk at Dracophyllum Bivvy, Nichols Hut and Andersons Memorial Hut. We watch the sun going down and the moon rising to take its place while descending Aokaparangi. The lights of Otaki and those of Masterton appear. Walking becomes a little tricky until the moon has risen a little above the horizon. Maungahuka Hut at 10 p.m. looks good to us. We have had an 18 hour day. Paul Richardson has been here since 7.30 p.m.!

The main party reached Powell Hut at 6 p.m. On Sunday Keith and Julian went out to Holdsworth Lodge and hitched-hiked back to Palmerston North. Kevin, Ross and Alan continued south via the rivers to Kaitoke, got a lift into Upper Hutt and returned home on the Wairarapa Railcar. Their total walking time for the weekend was 26 hours.

On Sunday Peter and Trevor continued along the Main Range to Vosseler Hut, took the Southern Crossing to Alpha Hut and accompanied Paul Richardson down the Marchant Ridge to Kaitoke. They missed the railcar at Upper Hutt but returned home in style on the Silver Star from Wellington. Their total walking time was 32 hours.

The husband and wife team from Wellington arrived at Andersons Memorial Hut on dusk, Saturday, and left again at 4.00 a.m. on Sunday. They reached their car at Kaitoke close to midnight having been on their feet for nearly 40 hours during the weekend.

P.N.T.M.C. Party: Julian Dalefield, Peter Darragh, Keith Margrain, Ross Meder, Kevin Pearce, Alan Stowell (M.U.A.C.) and Trevor Bissell.

#### 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> February RANGIWAHIA WORK PARTY – TRIANGLE HUT

Well Saturday 6.00 a.m. arrived – 3 awake and ready to go and two still sleeping! But having been woken and dressed almost in one motion we were on our way remembering the items we'd forgotten!

By 8.00 a.m. we were heading up the track towards Rangi, but instead diverted just before the bridge up the ridge. Bush bashed our way through bush lawyer and a little stinging nettle. Eventually made it into the tussock and leatherwood – had some breakfast. Made our way up to a tarn to have a welcome lunch. Then on again at a leisurely pace up Mangahuia to find a Baptist Day group including Adrienne Thompson already there. After a good long chat Trevor suggested we head down the ridge (with the least amount of leatherwood) to the Oroua and Triangle Hut – well .... We were fine till we hit the leatherwood, when occasionally one of us would clamber out onto the branches then disappear with a cry of pain as we fell through. Periodically Peter would burst into tune with a medley of songs – one for almost every situation! Eventually we made it into the bush, leaving a rather bloody trail behind us. Made good progress down to the river from where it was a nice leisurely walk to Triangle Hut. It wasn't long before tea was boiling and Peter's steak sizzling! (The sample was good.) We were ready for a good sleep after 10½ hours on the move.

7.30 a.m. some of us were up and moving and after a unanimous decision headed back up via the track, meantime hoping the day party were not too upset at the amount of work we were supposed to have done at Rangi! We were at the top of Mangahuia by about 2.00 p.m. and as we headed down towards Rangi we spotted members of the day party coming to meet us – made a rather expressive welcome. After explaining our whereabouts to Heather, had lunch and began making temporary repairs to the water system. The rest of the afternoon was spent playing cards and sunbathing. Then back to the cars – the majority via the bulldozed track and the rest over the bridge – John's steps came in very handy. Finally ice creams in Cheltenham. So all in all we had a really good weekend – Thanks Trevor.

Party Members: Trevor Bissell, Viv. Mawson, Peter Darragh, Wendy Chrisstoffels, Anne Flux.

27<sup>th</sup> February, 1977 RANGIWAHIA WORK PARTY DAY TRIP

The seven of us arrived at Rangiwhahia about 8.00 a.m. and at an easy pace made our way up the track using a spade to clear loose rock and make new footholds as necessary.

We arrived at the hut about 10.00 a.m. and hunted high and low to find the supposed industrious week-enders. After giving them up for lost, we set to and got the cards out for a game of 500 but our conscience soon got the better of us and we actually did some work with John Ogilvy kindly donating a tin of anti-rust paint which he applied while other tasks were carried out.

The week-end party arrived in time for lunch (typical) and we all spent the afternoon fixing up the water tank system and playing cards.

We returned to our vehicles about 5.30 p.m. after a most enjoyable day.

Those participating: Rossie Buchan, Gay Hughes, Harry Verwey, John Ogilvy, Heather Crabb, John Carter, Criag Baird.

4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March SOUTHERN CROSSING

"Tyrant" muttered Carol. Our leader had just announced our imminent departure for distant places.. We were sunbathing on the Dress Circle and enjoying the glorious weather.

Our trip had started the night before with the grind up to Fields in the dark and in the mud. We spurned the comforts of Fields Hut – the mice – the uneven boards – the noise of late arrivals, for the rigor of the outdoors. Saturday dawned fine (as they always do on Kevin's trips) and we set off upwards, the view expanding before us – Ruapehu, Egmont, the Kaikouras, Wellington, Mount Mathews, Lake Wairarapa, and all the peaks of the Tararuas to the north. Fairy God Mother Trevor, our esteemed President and driver, left us at Vosseler for Winchcombe, Neill and Cone. The peaks passed under our feet in steady procession, in spite of sunbathing stops and soon we were in the Tauherenikau setting up camp, having met up with Trevor at the foot of the Omega track.

Saturday was Patron's Birthday – Lawson was yet again celebrating his 29<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Sunday was fine, of course. Trevor returned to Otaki via the southern Crossing to recover his trusty conveyance whilst the rest of the party slept in, sun bathed, swam, waltzed up to Cone Hut etc.

Finally we departed for Woodside railway station via Mount Reeves at 1.00 p.m.

Those taking part were: Eric Strachan, Jan Simmons, Carol Nash, Trevor Bissell, Lawson Pither, Sue Streeter and Kevin Pearce. A successful and pleasant classic Southern Crossing.

11<sup>th</sup> March WEEKEND TRIP TO TONGARIRO AND NGAURUHOE

After a 2½ hour delay due to vehicle trouble, we finally set forth in 3 cars towards the Tongariro National Park, arriving at the Mangatepopo Hut at 1.30 a.m. Saturday morning.

We managed to get some partially refreshing sleep before waking to a grey, wet misty morning. Being of tough stock we set out, the fit three, Trevor, Stephen and Eric going via the Upper Tama Lakes then over the summit of Ngauruhoe before arriving at Ketetahi. The other nine headed direct for the summit of Ngauruhoe but unfortunately the climb was not rewarded by the anticipated view due to heavy cloud. Colin gave us the freight of our lives by disappearing down the steep slope at breakneck speed. By a miracle he only received a sprained wrist and a good shaking. We descended a little more cautiously to the South Crater, past the Emerald and Blue Lakes before finally arriving at the Ketetahi Hut. While soaking in the thermal stream a short distance from the hut, we were joined by the fifties who had enjoyed a good day's tramp. Peter decided that the only way to go was for a dip in the muddy and despite a pair of large, well placed hands over some vital statistics, we are looking forwards to seeing the photograph taken by Anne. After returning to the hut we had a good meal followed by some loud, hearty singing, headaches and cards.

Sunday morning dawned still wet and misty so after breakfast we decided to waste not time in climbing steeply up Tongariro to the North Crater before dropping down to the south Crater. Weather conditions were terrible with strong wind, rain and icy temperatures, bringing home to us the absolute necessity for warm clothing, overtrousers and long johns when entering mountain areas, even in Summer.

After lunch at the Mangatepopo Hut we decided that as the day was still young we would head home via Tokaanu and a soak in the hot pools which was very pleasant. We stopped at Taihape for takeaways and finally arrived back in Palmerston North about 8.30 p.m.

Those in the group were: Trevor Bissell, John Carter, Anne Flux, Colin Hoare, Harry Verwey, Mike Sullivan, Jan Simmons, Rex Sunde, Eric Strachan, Stephen Moore, Glen Osbourne and Peter Darragh.

CLUB NIGHT 24<sup>th</sup> February

At the February Club night the audience's attention was held when Scientist, Mountaineer, Rock climber and fellow Tramper Kevin Pearce gave an informative and entertaining talk on his year at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York in 1975/76 and his adventures with the Outing Club. He showed slides of Cornell itself, rock climbing in the imposing Seneca Rocks region, Yosemite National Park, the Canadian Rockies and white water canoeing.



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (INC.)  
PRESIDENT'S REPORT (YEAR ENDED 28/3/77)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the eleventh Annual Report of the Palmerston North Tramping & Mountaineering Club.

Although with a present membership of 46 our club is smaller than it has been for some years we ran at least 23 day trips and 40 weekend or longer trips during the year. Members averaged 9 trips per year each. In addition to our favourite stamping grounds, namely the Tararua and Ruahine Ranges, the club visited the Kaimanawas, the Tongariro National Park, Egmont and Lake Waikaremoana. Members of the Club tramped and climbed in the Seaward Kaikouras, South Westland, Mt. Cook National Park and Mt. Aspiring National Park.

Social events included the 'Grande Annual Dinner' at Rangi Hut, the annual slide competition and a 'Gourmet Dinner' with the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club in the Eastern Ruahines. Our debating team energetically supported the proposition that "Trampers use the hills as an excuse for grubbiness" but were defeated by the Massey University Alpine Club debating team who claimed that trampers needed no excuse to be grubby anyway.

During the year the club gave instruction on rockclimbing, snowcraft, bushcraft, river crossing and on the various skills required for Search and Rescue. Members took part in S.A.R. exercises at Camp Peak and Walls Whare and took part in a search for the pilot of a light aircraft which crashed in the Tararuas near the Pahiatua Track Road.

The Club has felt the effect of rising costs. In addition to the raising of subscriptions at last year's A.G.M. Club spending during the year was held to a minimum. The registration of the newsletter as a magazine greatly reduced postage costs. No winter and summer fixture cards were printed this year. Instead three monthly trip schedules were printed with the newsletter at a fraction of the cost. We hope to be in a position to purchase new tent flys in the coming year. The joint P.N.T.M.C./M.U.A.C. song book "Trudge" was finally received from the printers and paid for early this year. This money will be recovered from song book sales.

I wish to record my thanks to the members of the committee and our auditor. In addition to the work associated with the newsletter, the club gear, the trip schedules and the appointing of trip leaders, our Club is becoming more involved in the politics of the multiple use of the Tararuas and Ruahines. Possible hydroelectricity and water storage dams with associated roading have been proposed for most of the major rivers in the Tararuas. The Club has already opposed one such scheme through the Office of the Commission for the Environment. Problems of continued access to parts of the ranges still exist and we should concern ourselves to a greater extent with track, route and hut policies in the ranges.

Let me thank all who have helped run the club and who have gone on trips during the year.

Thank you.

Trevor Bissell  
President.