

4th – 6th August SNOWCRAFT COURSE 1A, RUAPEHU

This, the first of the winter courses, is aimed at the novice and the near novice. This year we will be combining with Massey and using their hut on Ruapehu. As ice axes and accommodation will be in short supply it may be necessary to limit numbers so get your name in early. Ice axes will be supplied if requested. Overtrousers, mittens and snow goggles essential. (Map NZMS 273.)

Leader: Trevor Bissell, ph. 73-543
Grading: Medium
Cost: Transport \$6.00, Hut fees \$5.00, ice axe 50c.
Depart: 6.30 p.m. Friday Night.

5th – 6th August BLYTHE HUT, RUAPEHU

A pleasant new hut on the Southern slopes of Ruapehu. (Map NZMS 273.)

Leader: Trevor Bissell, ph. 73-543
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$6.50
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

10th August COMMITTEE MEETING

At Ian Hoare's, 48 Worcester St., 7.30 p.m. Thursday.

12th – 13th August CONSERVATION WORK PARTY

Details yet to be decided but this trip will offer the opportunity for some community service as well as for having some fun.

Leader: Brad Owen, ph. 84-467
Grading: Medium
Cost: \$2.50
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

13th August CONSERVATION WORK PARTY

This could be your lucky day. See above.

Names to: Brad Owen, ph. 84-467
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$2.50
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Sunday.

18th – 19th – 20th August BANNISTER CROSSING

One of the more difficult and interesting of the Tararua Crossings. Storm gear, ice axes and torches will be required. (Map NZMS 1, N 157.)

Leader: Stephen Moore, ph. 81-699
Grading: Fitness Essential
Cost: \$5.00 (depending on transport arrangements.)
Depart: Friday evening, time to be arranged.

19th – 20th August WAIOPEHU

A Western Tararua trip to a vantage point overlooking the Horowhenua and the Central Tararuas. (Map NZMS 1, N 152.)

Names to: Stephen Moore, ph. 81-699
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$1.80

25th – 26th – 27th August SNOWCRAFT 1B, RUAPEHU

The second course in the series, arranged for those who found the date of 1A inconvenient. Also for those of advanced-beginner and intermediate experience who wish to polish up their technique. (Please note that Snowcraft II is an advanced course – previous snowcraft experience is essential.)

Saturday dinner, Saturday & Sunday breakfasts will be supplied, as will ice axes if requested. Overtrousers, mittens and snow goggles essential (Map NZMS 273.)

Leader: Peter Darragh, Feidling 5633
Grading: Medium
Cost: Transport \$6.00, hut fees \$5.00, ice axe hire 50c.
food \$3.00.
Depart: 8.00 p.m. Friday.

25th – 26th – 27th August LAKE SURPRISE

A new trip for the Club and mainly downhill. (Map NZMS 273.)

Names to: Peter Darragh, Feidling 5633
Grading: Easy
Cost: Transport \$6.00, \$2.50 hut fee
Depart: 8.00 p.m. Friday.

31st August CLUB NIGHT “THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FOREST PARKS”

Most of our tramping is done in forest Parks which are administrated by the Forest Service. Recent changes mean that the public now have a greater say in their management. The Forest Service have a difficult job in trying to reconcile conflicting requirements. An Officer of the Forest Service will give an illustrated talk on the above topic and will answer questions from the floor.

Thursday, 7.30 p.m. in the Society of Friends' Hall, 227 College St.

1st – 2nd – 3rd September SNOWCRAFT ii, MT EGMONT.

Details next month.

NOTICES

1. STARTING TIME FOR CLUB NIGHTS

It is intended that the hall will be opened shortly before 7.30 p.m. and that the meeting proper will get underway smartly on the dot of 7.45 p.m. Over recent months there has been a tendency for meetings to start late because people have arrived late. The late starts have encouraged people to arrive late – a classic vicious circle.

2. JULY CLUB NIGHT

Please note that the July Club Night takes the form of a debate against the Massey Alpine Club. This debate will be held on the Massey Campus on Tuesday 25th July – see coming events for details.

3. ERRORS AND OMISSIONS IN THE LIST OF FINANCIAL MEMBERS

This list was published last month. Please advise John Williams, phone 84-925, of any errors or omissions if you have not already done so.

4. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

You must go on two trips with the Club and then pay the appropriate subscription before making written application for membership. The minimum age is 14 years. Junior members are those still at secondary school. Family membership is open to husband and wife and dependents and entitles the family to only one newsletter. Current subs are:

Family: \$7.00 per annum.
Senior: \$6.00
Junior: \$4.00

(These amounts are reduced by 25% at the end of each financial quarter.)

“Application for membership” forms are available from the Secretary.

5. ITEMS FOR SALE

The Treasurer has the following items for sale:

Club Badges:	limited stocks only.	\$2.00
Club Song Book “Trudge”,	published by P.N.T.M.C.	\$1.25
Maps – limited range in stock,	others to order,	70c - \$1.50
Food for tramping trips.	8 pages of recipes 7 menus.	20c
Topo Maps & Route finding,	instructional booklet.	50c

6. FEDERATED MOUNTAIN CLUBS EXECUTIVE

Our President, Kevin Pearce, has been co-opted onto the FMC executive.

7. CHRISTMAS TRIP 1978/79

It is already time for the Club to be worrying about arrangements, particularly transport bookings. The following are the suggested trips.

(1) Arthur's Pass and Environs. An easy mountain holiday based on a

tent camp near Arthur's Pass town with day and overnight excursions to neighbouring valleys and peaks.

- (2) Pass hoping – Arthur's Pass region. A medium to fit trip starting from Arthur's Pass town – heavy packs will need to be carried.

Both trips would leave Palmerston North soon after Christmas and would be of 10 – 14 days duration. Please let Kevin Pearce, phone 70-217, have your thoughts on these suggestions and let him know if you are interested in a Christmas trip. Firm decisions and 10 deposits will be required by 28th September.

9. TRIP SCHEDULE OCTOBER - JANUARY

Ideas are needed for the new schedule. What sort of trips do you want and where would you like to go? Please let Kevin Pearce, phone 70-217, know.

10. Peter Darragh has been co-opted to the committee and takes on the portfolio of Social Convenor.

11. BILLY BAGS

A number of billy bags have been made for the club billies. Please clean bag and billies before returning them to the gear custodian.

12. NEWS FORM ABROAD

Keith Margrain is homesick. Please write to him at 3/403 Gloucester St., Christchurch.

13. NEW MEMBERS

Eric Van Toor,	7 Tern Place, P.N.	Ph.	70-217
Allen Parker,	P.O. Box 1873, P.N.		87-458
David Speller,	17 Carroll St., P.N.		81-717
Nigel Bingham,	45 Highbury Ave. P.N.		77-960

14. EVENING OUT AT THE SHERATON 24th November

Wine, dine and dance the hours away with the P.N.T.M.C. at the Sheraton on Friday, 24th November. A party of approximately 30 is booked in for that night so if you want to be one of the number please let Heather Crabb know, phone 77-668, as the management wants her to confirm the maximum number.

PAST EVENTS

THE ECO GATHERING ON THE WEST TAUPO FORESTS HELD AT TAUPO QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

As trampers we should be concerned about more of our environment than just the open tops or blush clad slopes and river valleys, in what we regard as our special tramping haunts. Thus I decided to attend the ECO gathering at Taupo where our immediate concern was to show our support for the immediate cessation of logging in what remains of the North Island lowland podocarp forests of the Western Taupo area – Pureora, Tihoi and Waihaha – the last of these as yet untouched by chainsaw. There is, of course, plenty of scope for recreation of the tramping variety in the Waihaha forest.

Not only was the weekend one to show the strength of the conservation movement but a choice of field trips was available so that those attending the weekend could be more fully informed by actually visiting some of the areas of concern – Pureora, Minganui, Waihaha and forests on the edge of the volcanic plateau. Each forest has its own characteristics and so each needs to be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

Two conference sessions were devoted to 'talk'. On the Saturday evening we heard informative lectures on the natural history of the central North Island forests, current views on the minimum size and shape required for reserves if the preservation of their wildlife is to be ensured. The last of the lectures covered the legitimate uses of native timber in industry. The last session was given over to the representatives of each of the political parties and after their comments, their policies were analysed by Guy Salmon. I would think we can look forward to the announcements from the Minister of Forests on the West Taupo Forests with little comfort.

After the enthusiasm of the conference, it has been extremely disappointing to see the handling of this issue by the media. Whereas it has always been conservation policy that the jobs of mill and forest workers should and can be safeguarded by the use of exotic timbers, the whole Forest Service and Government reply – given prominence in the media – has been to whip up emotion on the grounds of prospective job loss. The current Forest policy ensures that the workers dependent on native timber will lose their jobs sooner or later and we will have lost this remaining important part of our heritage.

Chris Saunders.

See also the article on pages 16 and 17 of the Listener, July 15 – 22.

16th – 18th June ALL? THE 1530 METRE PEAKS

A well known ego trip in the Tararua Range is to visit all 5,000' and higher peaks in a single weekend. The Otaki sheet (NZMS 1 N 157) displays the following high peaks:

Hector	5016'
McGregor	Above the 5,000' contour
South King	5050'
North King	5025'
Girdlestone	5076'
Brocket	5025'
Mitre	5153'
Bannister	Above the 4,900' contour.

A quick look at these peaks on the map shows that Mt. Hector is a very long way from the rest.

We now have the background to appreciate the low cunning of the Trip Convenor who advertised the trip as "All the 1530 Metre Peaks." All the peaks above 1530 metres or 5020 feet in height are fairly close together! However, it was decided to include McGregor and Bannister to make the trip F.E.

Alan Stowell provided transport to the Pines on Friday evening and a collection of trampers, cavers and a canoeist set off to Mitre Flats armed with torches and carbide lamps. Alan was out to enjoy a good gutbuster before leaving the country to present a paper at a conference on alcoholism in Europe. Ian Miller was getting some walking practice in before leaving for a tramping-caving trip to New Guinea; the tramping being for 2 or 3 days through dense highland bush at altitudes of up to 10,000' in order to reach the caves!

Saturday morning's get-away was little hampered by the wall to wall bodies on the floor of Mitre Flats Hut. They belonged to a Hutt Valley party and had arrived in the small hours of the morning. One had to traverse a cooking bench to reach the doorway and light drizzling rain beyond.

Snow extended to a low level in the bush on the Barton Track up to Baldy Peak and was knee deep in patches. Low visibility and gusty wind removed excess body heat and gave indications of slow travel ahead.

Ian and Grant decided to go back down to Mitre Flats from Baldy as Grant was having trouble with his back and Alan, Eric and Trevor decide that enough time remained to reach Dorset Ridge Hut if McGregor was dropped from the list.

However, snow plugging in wringing wet overtrou and mits is no fun, especially when one has to brace against the wind and Trevor's compass developed a marked tendency to point towards Mid King Bivvy. The decision was defended as the only safe and reasonable one in the circumstances and hence does not qualify as a pike!

A blissful afternoon was spent in sleeping bags in the Bivvy during which much rain fell, much snow melted and much food and drink was consumed.

Next morning the was heavier so we dropped down the spur between the South Mitre Stream and Baldy Creek. The fly was set up at the junction of these waterways since the flooded Baldy Creek did not appear to be crossable. However, a log bridge was late found to span the bulk of the stream and a sorty was made to the creek complete with river rope at the ready. We crossed and were thus able to go down the banks of South Mitre Stream to the walkwire and Mitre Flats.

Ian and Grant had left a log entry at the hut stating that they were departing at 12 noon (i.e. 8 a.m. in caver's time) for the bush edge on Mitre (presumably to meet us.) We waited till the cold wet clothing drove us onto the track to the Pines and the car. Ian and Grant followed an hour or two later.

Party: Alan Stowell, Ian Millar, Grant Ramsey, Eric Van Toor and Trevor Bissell.

OTURERE – KETETAHI

We arrived opposite access road No. 14 with the sun perched about the two mountains providing a dramatic view of the shadow clad ridges. We met three people loaded to the hilt with ice axes and climbing packs but funnily enough there was no snow to be seen. We ambled along to Waihohonu Hut via a road come track. It was decided that we would go to Oturere Hut and climb Mt. Ngauruhoe tomorrow. We arrived at Oturere Hut quite early so we decided to entertain ourselves with a few rock climbing problems. The lunar like landscape has plenty of sizable rocks to test your rock climbing skills.

That night the party came alive. Kevin and Eric devised some athletic feats to separate men from the boys with such thigs as flag poles and traversing a bunk. But the most interesting one was the sex test! Funnily enough not many members of the party were willing to try it – maybe they are unsure of their sex!!

Next day the weather was on a parallel with the day before. Three hearty and brave souls namely Eric, Stephen and Gordon climbed Ngauruhoe from the saddle by Emerald Lakes, while the other slackers bathed in the sun at Emerald Lakes. When we came down we all headed off to Ketetahi and had a swim in the thermal pools.

Next day we headed out to the road end, while Kevin and Eric hitch-hiked around to the cars.

Trip Members: Kevin Pearce, Gordon Winchomb, Stephen Moore, Allan Dunn, Owen Gurr, Jenny Smith, Eric Van Toor.

WHAKANUI, MT. MATHEWS, FIVE MILE

A small turnout of four people set off on the Whakanui Track, cheered up by the leader's usual promise of fine weather. Subversive elements, snowballs, and ideas of mutiny were countered by the leader with curses, promising blisters and lightening. Despite these, we arrived at the Orongorongo with much of the day to spare. The construction of a "jungle Gym" and Tarzan acts on a vine kept the party amused for the rest of the day. The night was spent at Baineiti hut.

Sunday brought more good weather, and an assault on Mount Mathews, which resulted in three of the party reaching the summit. We then trudged down the Orongorongo and back out over Five Mile Track.

Members of the party were: Susan Cade, Jenny Smith, Eric Van Toor, and Kevin Pearce.

TRIP REPORT FROM THE P.N.T.M.C. (OFF-SHORE ISLAND BRANCH.)

24th June.

It was a gloomy overcast Saturday morning (and an even gloomier forecast,) when I and Keith Margrain rendezvoused in Christchurch for a trip to the Avoca Valley in the Arthur's Pass area.

As we neared our starting point, the Bealey Bridge, the weather brightened and we made our way up the Waimakariri in good conditions. By the time we were half way up the Jordon Stream, we encountered snow and ice which were to remain with us for the rest of the weekend. We had lunch on the other side of the Jordon Saddle before dropping down towards the Avoca River. It was some time before I realised that I had lost my ice axe of the back of my pack which necessitated a climb and a waste of 1½ hours. That was my mistake for the weekend. Keith was to make his the following day.

I was ready to collapse by the time we reached the Avoca Hut at nightfall. With Keith tucked away in his sleeping bag, (the cad) I cooked up the usual followed by plum pudd and custard, courtesy of Keith. (Pop the pudd in foil and boil for 15 mins. It's delicious.)

The next morning dawned beautifully fine and we set off early to climb over the Sphinx Saddle but owing to a technical error (faulty map reading, I'm not allowed to tell Kevin) we climbed up a blind alley to 6,000 feet before realising, so we had to turn around and descend to our starting point of 3 hours earlier. By now it was mid-day and still a 6 hour tramp ahead of us over the Jordon Saddle for quickness. It was nearly 7.00 p.m. by the time we reached the car after what was for me a most exhausting weekend in the ice and snow. Different though.

John Carter.

ADDITIONS TO 9th JULY, 1978 LIST OF FINANCIAL MEMBERS.

BEECH,	Philip & Family	35 Ruahine St., P.N.	79-903
BOWDEN,	Sally	Flat 19, 520 Church St.	73-593
CHALLANDS,	Neil & Keith	21 Salisbury Ave.	76-973
JENSEN,	Vern	Box 27, Apiti	Apiti 873
RAMSAY,	Grant	53 McGregor St.	75-365
TERZAGHI,	Eric & Family	210 Park Rd.	71-650
WILLIAMS,	Elizabeth	9 Jickell St.	82-625
WILTSHIRE	Michael & Family	133 Ruamahanga Cres.	

SUPPLEMENT TO F.M.C. BULLETIN, JUNE 1978

The following is taken from an ECO SPECIAL BULLETIN, 22 June 1978

WEST TAUPO FORESTS
Visits to MPs – Now Urgent

The decision on whether or not to stop the logging in the West Taupo forests is now imminent. It is essential at this stage that we gain the support of as many MPs as possible.

National MPs are now participating in shaping their party's policy. Labour MPs need support for their party's stand on the central North Island forests. Whatever your persuasion, it is important, now, to make a personal visit.

Ring your MP. Make an appointment and go along to see him or her as soon as possible. The main points to convey are:

a) the urgency of the situation in North Pureora and the necessity of removing the logging gangs from there immediately.

b) that there are no sound arguments for continuing to log in these forests.

The information in this Bulletin should provide you with enough facts to present your case firmly.

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SOME ARGUEMENTS

A) EMPLOYMENT AT THE SAWMILLS

Conservationists' proposals to have these forests preserved need have no marked effect on local employment and other interests.

The Minginui Sawmill

- There is absolutely no question of this mill having to close if the Whirinaki forest is saved from further logging.
- Minginui sawmill is equipped to cut exotic sawlogs
- the supply contract with the Forest Service states that either native or exotic sawlogs can be supplied at the discretion of the Minister of Forests
- Minginui is a mere 12 miles from the Kaiangaroa pine plantations - the largest in the Southern Hemisphere

The West Taupo Sawmills

- The Forest Service themselves plan on three out of the four local mills (the two small Western Bay mills and the Barryville mill) closing down very shortly. ECO have urged that priority be given to relocating and finding new employment for displaced workers and their families.
- the argument is principally over the future of the Te Kuiti mill.
- like the Minginui mill, it has a modern bandsaw and is equipped to cut exotic logs instead of native logs.
- the distance from Te Kuiti to the nearest mature exotic State Forest is no further than the Tongariro Timber Co. mill at National Park, which carts sawlogs a comparable distance (210 km) and maintains its commercial viability.

B) ARE EXOTIC SAWLOGS AVAILABLE?

- The two mills at Minginui and Te Kuiti between them are cutting less than 50,000 cubic metres per annum.
- In 1979 over 370,000 cubic metres of sawlogs are to be advertised for sale from Kaiangaroa forest. Less than 15% of this volume would suffice to save these native forests.
- In 1977, nearly one million cubic metres of sawlogs were exported to Japan, a substantial increase on the previous year
- from Mount Maunganui there has been a 100% increase in the export of State exotic logs in the last 9 months.
- Japan still has 68% of her land area forested, New Zealand 23%
- Is the maintenance of such massive supplies of exotic logs to Japan more important than both maintaining local employment and saving our own native forests from further depletion?

C) SELECTION LOGGING - AN UNJUSTIFIABLE INTRUSION

- A major justification used for continued logging is that the total proportion of logs extracted under selection logging is very small.
- whether 80% or 10% of the total volume of available timber is extracted bulldozers, logging trucks and a network of roads are still required. This detracts most visibly from the aesthetic appeal of the forest interior quite apart from the disruptive influence on sensitive wildlife.
- after more than 100 years of destruction the small remnants of these virgin, mixed podocarp rainforests total an area less than the size of Lake Taupo.

D) PROPOSED INTERIM LOGGING AREAS

These total 322 ha. and will:

- a) provide logging gangs with an immediate alternative to continued logging in areas of highly sensitive wildlife habitat in North Pureora.
 - b) buy the necessary time for the careful winding down of all indigenous milling in West Taupo State Forests while alternative exotic logs or employment are found.
- access roads run within a stone's throw of both interim logging areas, no bridges are required.
 - the Director-General of Forests has stated it would take only three weeks to complete roading into one of these areas.
 - if all merchantable timber was extracted these areas would last 18 months.

There is a danger that the Minister of Forests will move his logging gangs out of Pureora and into the interim areas just to take the heat out of the situation. Beware of this decision when you see your MP. Unless a firm assurance is given at the same time that there will be a complete halt to logging elsewhere in the virgin West Taupo forests there will be no cause to celebrate.

We are seeking the protection of the intact and unmodified forests that remain, of which the kokako is a precious but by no means the only important part. The pristine state of these magnificent primeval forests is their priceless quality to be handed down for the future.

Any decision which achieves less than this must be greeted with an immediate reaction: letters and telegrams and visits which demand to know when the final decision to end the logging altogether will be taken.