



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

**NEWSLETTER**

9/78

Hon. Secretary:	Trevor Bissell,	73-543
Membership Enquiries:	John Williams,	84-925
Newsletter Editor:	Gill Davies	79-733
Gear Custodian:	Peter Croad	69-386
Enquiries Concerning Overdue Trips:		
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N.B. Work numbers are for emergency use only.		

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 ALL TRIPS LEAVE THE "SUPERSAVE" CAR PARK, FERGUSON STREET.  
 IF YOU WISH TO GO ON A TRIP ADVISE THE LEADER AT LEAST THREE DAYS  
 IN ADVANCE.

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COMING EVENTS

23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September NAVIGATION EXERCISE

A duo of trips to the Roaring Meg – Kapakapanui area of the Tararuas (near Otaki Forks.) A chance to learn and practice map and compass in the untracked bush. Bring map (NZMS 1, N 157.) and compass if you have them.

Leader:	Trevor Bissell, ph. 73-543
Grading:	Easy and Fit (two trips.)
Cost:	\$2.70
Depart:	6.00 a.m. Saturday.

26<sup>th</sup> September CLUB NIGHT – INTER CLUB QUIZ

(Please note Club Night is on a Tuesday.)  
 Teams from the Massey Alpine Club and the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club will join in a Quiz related to tramping and mountaineering.  
 8.00 p.m. Tuesday in Room SS1 on the Massey Campus.

29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> October TWO PEAKS

Mount Tongariro and Ngauruhoe are the peaks in question. (Map NZMS 1 N, 112 or NZMS 273.)

Names to:	Kevin Pearce, ph. 70-217
Grading:	Fit.
Cost:	\$7.00
Depart:	6.30 p.m. Friday night.

30<sup>th</sup> Sept. – 1<sup>st</sup> October MANGATAPOPO

A very pleasant valley in the Tongariro National Park. Optional rock climbing is available.

Names to:	Kevin Pearce, ph. 70-217
Grading:	Easy.
Cost:	\$7.00
Depart:	6.00 a.m. Saturday

5<sup>th</sup> October COMMITTEE MEETING

At Stephen Moore's, 85 Te Awe Awe St. 7.30 p.m.

7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> October FULL POHANGINA RIVER

This trip starts from Moorcock's Base and follows the Pohangina River from when it is a mere trickle until it is a thundering river, and there is plenty of boulder hopping to start the summer months off.

Leader: Eric Van Toor, ph. 70-217  
Grading: Fit  
Cost: \$2.50  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

8<sup>th</sup> October POHANGINA RIVER

Maybe your first chance for a swim this season? (NZMS 1, N 145).

Leader: Eric Van Toor, ph. 70-217  
Grading: Easy  
Cost: \$1.60  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Sunday.

14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October PENN CREEK HUT – YEATES

A trip in the Tararua Ranges in behind Otaki Forks. (NZMS 1, N 157).

Leader: Trevor Bissell, ph. 73-543  
Grading: Medium  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday  
Cost: \$2.70.

15<sup>th</sup> October PENN CREEK HUT

(NZMS 1, N 157).

Names to: Trevor Bissell, ph. 73-543  
Grading: Easy  
Cost: \$2.70  
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Sunday.

21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October LABOUR WEEKEND, MT TARAWERA AREA

In 1886 during the eruption of Mt Tarawera Lake Rotomahana increased its size and New Zealand lost one of its most famous scenic features, the Pink and White Terraces which were on the lake's shore.

Leader: Kevin Pearce, ph. 70-217  
Grading: Fit and Easy  
Cost: \$11.00  
Depart: Friday night – time arranged by Trip Leader.

21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October MT HOLDSWORTH LODGE – TOTARA FLATS HUT

(NZMS 1, N 157).

Names to: Kevin Pearce, ph. 70-217  
Grading: Medium  
Cost: \$3.90  
Depart: Saturday, 6.00 a.m.

26<sup>th</sup> October CLUB NIGHT

Eric Terzaghi will talk on some of his outdoor activities which include canoeing and mountaineering. It will be a most interesting evening for everyone.

28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October TOP MAROPEA

This trip will take us around the headwaters of the Waipawa River. There could be snow. (NZMS 1, N 140).

Leader: Gill Davies, ph. 79-733  
Grading: Fit  
Cost: \$4.40  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October WAIPAWA CHALET

The basic trip is very easy but it is expected that some of the party will want to do a little extra – perhaps a day trip to Waikamaka Hut (Eastern Ruahines, Map NZMS 1 N 140).

Names to:	Gill Davies, ph. 79-733
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	\$4.50
Depart:	6.00 a.m. Saturday.

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THIS LAND IS OUR LAND  
HAS VENN YOUNG SEEN THE WOOD FOR THE TREES? – OR –  
THE CONTINUING FIGHT TO SAVE NATIVE TREES

In the July issue of the Tramping Club Newsletter I wrote a short article on the ECO gathering at Taupo. Since then, the Minister of Forests has released his statement of Government policy on North Island indigenous forests. The following is a short appraisal of the Minister's statement from the conservationist point of view.

1. WEST TAUPO

In these forests logging will be reduced by almost 90% to 6,000 cubic metres a year and logging will be confined to two compromise areas for the next three years. There will be no logging in the rest of Pureora and Waihaha during this period. Displaced workers will be offered employment in a forest planting programme.

This decision is a considerable improvement on that suggested by Venn Young earlier. Waihaha as well as Pureora forest is covered by the logging moratorium and the rate of scaling down the logging to 6,000 cubic metres has been reduced from five years to 8 months.

The announcement may well sound like victory for the conservation movement but NO FOREST HAS ACTUALLY BEEN RESERVED. The preservation of the virgin forest still remaining at Pureora and Waihaha is still the objective of the conservation movement.

2. WHIRINAKI

You no doubt remember that this piece of virgin podocarp forest was the centre of interest for the media when the people of Minginui prevented a party from the ECO gathering visiting it. Conservationists consider it a must that this area be incorporated into Urewera National Park. Unfortunately the Government proposal is to continue logging here for a further 12 years although there is a good supply of exotic logs in the Kaingaroa forest only 20 kilometres away. A final decision on Whirinaki will be taken in mid 1979. We can therefore expect this to be a major issue of immediate concern in the continuing campaign to save this part of our natural heritage.

Chris Saunders (with acknowledge to NFAC).  
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CHARLES EDWARD DOUGLAS – PIONEER – EXPLORER

Seventy years ago Charles Douglas retired after forty years as a Department surveyor in South Westland.

His work started a year or two after the first gold seekers had crossed the Main Divide to escape the Otago winter. Douglas said of the lone Pioneer – “They didn't in those days sit down and whine to the Government for tracks, they didn't wait for subsidised ferries or Charity Steamers, but they boldly penetrated forest and mountain,..... reckless of tomorrow, so long as today furnished them with a roast Maorie Hen or a Billy of Mussells and a pannican of skilly.”

Although many of his trips were made alone with his dog, close friends of Douglas included Gerhard Mueller, George Roberts and Arthur Harper all of whom were skilled surveyors and bushmen.

The Government was particularly anxious that he should find a low pass through to Canterbury suitable as a mule route and for tourists. He explored the headwaters of the Copeland with this in mind.

Perhaps there is no one living here now who would be prepared to endure the privations he did a hundred years ago, living his life in the cold and wet with a 'bat wing tent and a couple of' blankets, staying out for weeks and months on end in impenetrable bush with broken gullies, hidden ravines, bluffs and swift deep rivers which, often had to be crossed on flax rafts and relying on finding birds and fish to supplement the basic flour, tea and sugar diet. All this because he felt that the area should be mapped.

Many of his field books, maps and sketches are preserved in the Hokitika Lands and Survey office.

In a final testimonial to him G. Roberts wrote that he was well educated and knowledgeable, a keen observer, an original thinker and a humorist, modest and unassuming, honoured and loved by all who knew him. He died in 1916.

For further details read "Mr. Explorer Douglas" by John Pascoe.

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RECIPE

Try this as an alternative to Tararua Biscuits.

RICE CAKES (contributed by Peter Croad.)

- 2½ cups cooked rice
- ¼ cup butter
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 4 eggs
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- ½ cup seedless raisins

Cream butter and honey. Beat in eggs one at a time. Add remaining ingredients, including cooked rice. Bake in a greased 200 mm cake tin for one hour at 350° until brown. Cool and then refrigerate. Cut into wedges and wrap in plastic wrap.

From "Bicycling"

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NOTICES

1. The P.N. Jaycees are raising money to buy a Search and Rescue Caravan. They are selling "Dineout" voucher books for \$4.00. These are good value and will be available from Trevor Bissell at Club Nights, or ring him at 73-543.
2. A Club member Mr. V.O. Jensen has been appointed to the Ruahine State Forest Park Advisory Committee.
3. Copies of the Public Submissions upon the Tararua Forest Park Management Plan are available for purchase for \$10 from N.Z. Forest Service, P.O. Box 647, Palmerston North.
4. Tim Short will be temporarily in charge of gear hire from October 10<sup>th</sup> until the end of November.
5. Venturetreks require a number of camp wardens to look after tent camps on their Wanganui River Walk. Applicants should be experienced in bush camping and cooking on an open fire and should enjoy meeting people. A nominal salary will be paid. For further details write to:

Walter Rmanes,  
Venturetreks,  
P.O. Box 3839'  
Auckland.

6. Dinner at the Sheraton on November 24<sup>th</sup> - 35 place have been booked and so far 29 have been taken. If you wish to join the group ring Heather Crabb, 77-668 without too much delay. The dinner will cost \$12.00 per person and you should allow a further \$3.00 for drinks.

7 Please remember the next Club Night will be at Massey in Room S.S.1 on TUESDAY, 26<sup>th</sup> September, at 8.00 p.m.

Teams from the Massey Alpine Club and the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club will join the P.N.T.M.C. in a quiz covering all subjects related to tramping and mountaineering.

8. SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Palmerston North Search and Rescue Advisory Committee of which our Club is a member, is to seek incorporation as a society under the Incorporated Societies Act. This move is in anticipation of a donation of a caravan for use as a mobile search headquarters. The Palmerston North Chapter of the Jaycees is at present raising funds for the purchase.

9. CHRISTMAS TRIP

At present 12 people have indicated their interest in this trip. Bookings have been made to leave Palmerston North at 7.15 a.m. Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December and return to Palmerston North Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Total transport cost to Arthur's Pass and return is \$56.70 each. Further names can be accepted please contact Kevin Pearce, 70-217.

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PAST EVENTS

21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> July TARARUA MAIN RANGE

A Friday night effort was made up to Field's Hut where we were later woken by the arrival of Brian Hunt and 20 WTMCS. We squeezed ourselves against the wall to make room for the new comers, and they informed us that they were heading the Southern Crossing in the morning.

Next day we made good time to Vosseler where the only remaining snows (that which had not been melted by the rains) lay around the hut.

The beaten path along the Main Range was very muddy and one had to step quickly and nimbly on the downhill sections. Huey blew and shed occasional tears of water and ice; not the most pleasant of weather.

After negotiating the Tararua Peaks, with the repaired chain ladder and the new wire rope hand rail from its base, and Maungahuka Peak it was obvious that we could not reach Anderson's Memorial Hut in daylight. Not wishing to fly camp in doubtful weather we piked at Maungahuka Hut (familiar tune?)

Next day we retraced our steps to Vosseler Hut and even had some views of Penn Creek and the Hector River. At Field's Hut the log book revealed that Paul Aubrey had passed through that day. Huey had one last little shower as we crossed the farm land at Otaki Fork and we were out of his clutches.

Party: Colin Hoare and Trevor Bissell.

29<sup>th</sup> July BURNS HUT OR FROLICS INTHE MANGAHAO

A somewhat uncertain group donned boots and parkas and strolled through heavy rain to the No. 2 dam. The spillway boomed as tons of water crashed down the concrete chute to the river below. The river was rushing bank to bank.

After a considerable amount of discussion we set off along the banks of the river, initially along a track and later across bush clad slopes. About 1½ hours later it was decided to retrace our steps to the warmth and comfort of the van.

Party: Julian Dalefield, Raewyn Devonshire, Debbie Milne, Carol Milligan, Jenny Smith, Bud and Susan Cade, Eric Van Toor, Alan Dunn, Trevor Bissell.

P.S. On Sunday 3 of our Club members were benighted on Ngapuke tarua Peak with only one sleeping bag cover between them. They had climbed onto the peak from Harris Creek and on Monday they walked down the Puketarua Track to College Creek and the No. dam.

4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> August SNOWCRAFT 1A - RUAPEHU

If borrowed chains do not fit the wheels, they can be laid on the road in front of the rear tyres and, with a little pushing, the vehicle can be driven forward a few feet. By repeating

this tedious procedure many times a team can even coax a Ford Transit van up the snow covered Ohakune Mountain Road to Massey Hut!

Saturday was a nice day and it was profitably used for step cutting, belaying and self arrest practice. Unfortunately Pete suffered a minor accident and was hospitalised during the next week for observation. (Two more injury accidents and Pete could equal Philip's record for 1978 – Keep it up boys!)

Debbie, Raewyn and John went off to Blyth Hut for the day. The Massey's (on an advanced snowcraft course) climbed Girdlestone by the ridge facing Ohakune and returned in a state of exultation (lucky dogs).

Masseys and PNTMcs passed disparaging comments about each other's meals which were followed by a rousing sing song. The clean minded and less perverted people pretended to ignore the distasteful noise and eventually went to bed.

On Sunday some went to Wanganui Hut and others went up the mountain. The early risers went over Tahurangi and into the crater. Several groups of skiers and climbers could be seen around the plateau and the view alone was enough to lift the spirit. Some of the group climbed Pare before returning to Massey Hut.

Snowcrafters: Jenny Smith, Kevin Pearce, Peter Darragh, Susan Cade, Colin Hoare, Eric Van Toor, Anne Flux, Wendy Christoffeles, Wade Bishop, Robyn Valentine, Chantel Hewitt, Phillip Cade and Trevor Bissell.

Blyth Hutterers: John Williams, Raewyn Devonshire and Debbie Milne.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> August CONSERVATION WORK PARTY

The usual promotional announcement advertising the conservation work party was withheld pending information from the Forest Service. Due to lack of Government finance and pressure of work upon their officers the Forest Service weren't able to provide direction concerning appropriate work. No direction, therefore no announcement, therefore very nearly no trip, but not quite. As we were only three, any worthwhile conservation "work" was beyond our capacity, but it was rumoured that Mangahuka had some sort of drainage problem associated with the tarn, so we decided to go to Mangahuka, inspect and report.

Like good little conservationists we gurgled through the centre of all the muddy bits of the Field's Track and we conserved energy by travelling slowly – so well that we never reached Mangahuka Hut. At Vosseler Peak we headed down towards Penn Creek and made camp by a tarn near the bush line.

Next day the blazes were soon lost but we continued bashing down to more horizontal terrain, quickly discovering that cutty grass does not help in conserving skin or blood. After lunch at Penn Creek Hut we headed out on the high level track, arriving on the farmland in darkness. To conserve the batteries in our torches we blundered around the paddocks with the other lost sheep until eventually finding the swing bridge and the road back to the car park.

The final example of conservation was thrust upon us; the car conserved momentum in the middle of a creek and refused to start!

Party: Gill Davies, Susan Cade, Brad Owen.

#### 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August BANNISTER CROSSING

It was raining steadily and the Tararuas were dressed in an ominous coat of black cloud. All three of us were dropped off at the Kiri-Whakapapa road end and made our way up to Blue Range Hut. The track was clothed in a layer of snow. Usually on Friday night starts you require torches but this was not the case. The full moon together with the snow highlighted the track and now the rain had turned to snow and the journey became very pleasant.

Next morning we woke up to an overcast day and started our way up to Waingawa via Cow Saddle. The snow became quite deep just beyond the bush edge and progress became very slow. If the snow was deep at 4,000 ft. what was it going to be like at 5,000 ft? With this and an elementary mistake made by the leader we decided to pike and headed off to Roaring Stag Lodge. As we were going down, a male figure came out of the bush and asked where he was and where was Coldwater Hut. We finally convinced him that Cow

Creek junction Hut was the one he wanted and gave directions. The rest of his group were further down the track in the bush. By the look of the person his group had spent the night out. We arrived at Roaring Stag Lodge just after dark. The next morning we had to decide what we were going to do. After a lot of chin wagging and indecision the leader took hold of the situation and made the decision to go out over Kareti and pick a suitable spur and hopefully miss the waterfalls in Harris Creek and then out to Mangahao dam. By this time it was nine o'clock. We started off for the Schormann's Track and had lunch at what is left of Putara Hut. Having quarter of an hour to massage cold feet and dry wet gear, we were off again. We were able to follow deer trails through the leatherwood to a certain extent (thank God for the deer). We finally arrived at Harris Creek and made a quick trip to Harris Creek Hut. But the dark started to catch up on us. With one carbide lamp and two very weak torches we had a few interesting moments travelling out to the dam.

We telephoned for transport at the caretaker's place, who told some very interesting stories of his life. We finally arrived home at about one o'clock in the morning.

The Pikers were: Trevor Bissell, Steven Moore, Kevin Pearce.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> September TUNUPO - TOKA

We left the Heritage Lodge area at 8.15 a.m. when the cloud floor was at about 2,000 metres so we had a clear view of our goals. The walk up Tunupo was very warm until about 1,200 metres when a strong and rather cold north westerly hit us so after some lunch we put on all the gear and trudged on mostly over tussock and rocks with occasional patches of firm snow.

The cloud level was creeping lower and bringing with it stinging rain so we left Toka quickly and went down in mist to the protection of the bush by which time the wind had gone.

We knew that on reaching the road we had a long haul back to where the car was parked. At this stage the winged pair soon disappeared and the others nobly refused a cup of tea kindly offered by the residents of Sixtus Lodge imagining the aforementioned champing at the car door. However, "the others" arrived at the car exactly eight hours after leaving so it was a perfectly respectable fit trip.

Our complacency took a knock however, when halfway up a long hill the car failed to accelerate and came to a determined halt. Brake on, stones behind the wheels, bonnet up, heads under it, racking brains, poking and prodding, good ideas, no ideas. The best idea was to push the car to the top of the hill where there was a farm house. Kim immediately offered to steer - you've got to be quick. So the rest heaved and pushed and pushed with encouraging remarks from the steerer and eventually the top was reached.

A helpful farmer appeared, glanced under the bonnet and noticed a rather obvious broken wire which he reconnected. Our feelings of relief completely overwhelmed the feelings of embarrassment which no doubt we should have been experiencing.

And so, another trip becomes history.

History makers were Bruce Sout, Paul Thornton, Lucy, Kim and Gill Davies.

TRIP SCHEDULE. NOVEMBER – FEBRUARY 1979.

NOVEMBER

4 <sup>th</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup>	Rock Climbing at Titahi Bay.
11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Crow Hut – Rongatea Crow Hut
10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Wellington Sarex
11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Horowhenua S.A.R. Snowcraft Course
17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	F.S.C. course at Massey
17 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup>	Mitre Peak
24 <sup>th</sup>	Night out at the Sheraton
25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>	Blue Range – Cow Creek Junction Hut

DECEMBER

2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christmas at Rangī
9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	River Crossing Instruction Waitatapia – Waitewaewae Waitohu
16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Triangle Hut
Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup> – Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas trip – Arthur's Pass

JANUARY

20 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Anniversary Weekend – Kaimanawa Range area
27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Full Otaki River

FEBRUARY

3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	Makaretu River – Pohangina Saddle
4 <sup>th</sup>	Makaretu River – Happy Daze Hut
10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	Hikurangi Range – Kawhatau River
17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Powell – Dorset Ridge – Pinnacle Ridge
18 <sup>th</sup>	Powell
24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>	Otaki Forks – Holdsworth
25 <sup>th</sup>	Kime Hut