



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

NEWSLETTER

10/78

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:		
Kevin Pearce,	Home 70-217	Work 74-129
John Williams,	84-925	68-019
Russ Johnson,	87-777	78-581
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

28th – 29th 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.

2nd November ARTHUR'S PASS CHRISTMAS TRIP PLANNING MEETING

All those who have put their names down for the Club's Christmas trips are urged to attend. If you can't make it please ring Kevin, phone 70-217.

7.30 p.m. at Kevin Pearce's, 7 Tern Place. (Off Galway Ave., off Pahiatua St.)

4th – 5th November ROCK CLIMBING AT TITAHI BAY

By popular demand. Bring plenty to drink and swimming togs.

Leader:	Philip Budding, Ph. 85-936.
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	\$4.50
Depart:	7.00 a.m. Saturday.

9th November COMMITTEE MEETING

At Brad Owen's, 22 Pahiatua St., P.N. at 7.30 p.m.

11th – 12th November CROW HUT – RONGATEA

Two trips to the N.W. Ruahines under the leadership of Trevor B! Maps NZMS 1, N133 & 140.

Leader:	Trevor Bissell, ph. 73-543
Grading:	Easy & Fit (Two Trips)
Cost:	\$3.00
Depart:	6.00 a.m. Saturday. .../2

18th – 19th November MITRE PEAK

The highest peak in the Tararuas. An optional gorge trip on the way home. Map NZMS 1, N 157.

Leader: Colin Hoare, ph. 83-448
Grading: Medium (also an Easy trip if required).
Cost: \$3.50
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

25th – 26th November KIRIWAKAPAPA – BLUE RANGE – COW CREEK

Eastern Tararuas offering easy ridge travel, optional swimming and perhaps a short bit of bush bashing.

Leader: Gill Davies, ph. 79-733
Grading: Medium
Cost: \$3.00
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

30th November CLUB NIGHT

There will be a speaker from the Social Cycling Club and some members will show slides of cycling trips in England and Europe.

At the Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms, 227 College St., P.N. at 7.30 p.m.
SUPPER DUTIES: Heater Crabb, Sue Streeter, Gary Thomas

26th Dec. – 10th January ARTHUR'S PASS

Names can still be taken for the two trips to this delightful area of the southern Alps. Arthur's Pass provides both easy valley trips and glacier clad peaks. Transport will be via bus and ferry and the estimated cost of transport is \$56 return. All food will be organised and the cost of this plus other sundries could be in the range of \$20 - \$30 (a guess only). Trip fees will need to be paid in advance.

Two separate trips are envisaged. The first will be based on Daisy Flat near Arthur's Pass Township. Party members will go off in small groups on day, overnight or longer short trips to neighbouring peaks and valleys. The second trip is graded fit and will involve pass hopping. Heavy packs will need to be carried on this trip.

A meeting to plan the trips will be held at the time and place advertised on page 1.

Leader: Kevin Pearce, ph. 70-217
Grading: Easy & Fit.
Cost: \$80 – very approx. (a guess only).
Depart: 7.17 a.m. Tuesday December 26th,
Newman's Depot.
Return: 8.15 p.m. Wednesday, January 10th

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THIS LAND IS OUR LAND

MAORI FOREST LORE

Broad cut racks tend to take away the trumper's awareness of direction, distance and terrain. We would be more observant if tracks were maintained in the traditional Maori way.

According to Elsdon Best:

"When a new path was being laid out the trail breaker marked the route by breaking but not severing branchlets and the smaller young trees. Subsequent travellers proceeding along such a path would help to keep it open by means of breaking off any new growth encroaching on the pathway. At certain points were resting places. In forest-clad hill country such spots were selected where, by clearing a small space, a view of the surrounding lands might be obtained.

The easiest routes were chosen, up leading spurs and along the summits of ridges. Sometimes the bed of a stream served as a path. Swamp tracks were improved by laying down layers of bracken or manuka.

When a path ran up a cliff rough ladders were used or a trailing vine, or a rope was secured at the upper end. Wooden pegs were sometimes times driven into the cliff face."

Charles Douglas (see last newsletter) at various times used all of these methods and so did his dog. He hated river crossings but the Maoris enjoyed them) and apparently were expert at coping with rivers in high flood. They made flax floats or used a chest pole or simply swam across on a long diagonal with no aids.

Bridges were seldom used and then were only fallen poles or temporary swings tied with flax.

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PLEAS PLEASE

Calling all writers, poets, scribes and others collect your vellum, slates, bark, leaves, paper or whatever pick up your quills, styluses, chalk, pencils etc. and write for this newsletter.

Trip accounts are always interesting, informative, amusing and necessary for members who through pressure of work or play were unfortunate enough to miss the weekend outing. Leaders, as soon as you've had your shower on Sunday night write down your movements over the previous 24, 36, 48 hours before the memories fade - and bad hand - writing is NO EXCUBE. The Ed. is quite prepared to spend some time deciphering.

In addition to accounts, ideas and information for the section "This Land is Our Land" would be most welcome. We know that everyone can work his or her feet. Now get the part at the top into gear.

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1. Will those going to the Sheraton on November 24th please give \$15.00 (\$12.00 for the meal, \$3.00 for wine) to Heather Crabb, 3 Clyde Cres. no later than the club night on October 26th. If you won't be at the club night be sure to mail it to her.
2. Brad Owen and John, Williams have been nominated as Club Delegates on the Palmerston North Search and Rescue Advisory Committee.
3. The Tokomaru Tramping Club have been in operation for seven months and particularly encourage family participation. They invite members of the club to join them at Labour weekend on a tramp into the South Ohau - Te Matawai area, leaving on October 20th and returning on October 23rd. For further information ring Jim Connell, Tok. 768, or Bill Taylor, Tok. 808.

4. HIRE OF GEAR

The gear custodian is NOT responsible for cleaning billies etc. and washing billy bags. All gear hired must be returned in a CLEAN condition. This is the responsibility of the trip leader.

See end of this newsletter for Gear Hire Regulations.

5. NEW MEMBERS

A welcome to:

Carole Milligan, 38 Milson Line, Palm. Nth.	ph.	89-904
Raewyn Devonshire, 21 Henare St., " "	"	89-230
Debby Milne, 4 Anzio Place, " "	"	82-521
Mark Elvins, 10 R.D. Feilding.	"	Fg. 6466.

PAST EVENTS

1st - 3rd September SNOWCRAFT II, EGMONT

Perfect weather, good snow conditions, a convenient hut and a good muster of keen participants were the ingredients of this most successful snowcraft course. The whole party made it to the summit, some more than once. Those who took part were:

Kevin Pearce, Allan Stowell, Jenny Smith, Eric Van Toor, Trevor Bissell, Colin Hoare, Anne Flux, Wendy Chrisstoffeles, Peter Darragh, Susan Cade, Mady Robins, Philip Budding, Brad Owen, Stephen Moore, Grant Ramsay, John Patterson, Kim Davies, Chrissy Williams, Colin Elliott, Ron Griven.

16th – 17th September SAWTOOTH RIDGE

There were no takers from our Club I decided to go anyway.

I shared transport with John William's bushcraft course come Hinerua Hut trip and wandered up to Howletts Hut on Saturday. The afternoon spent peacefully in bed until four members of the Napier Tramping Club arrived. One of these, Peter, had traversed the Sawtooth some 15 years earlier in a whiteout and was keen to go up and actually see what it looked like. He also knew several ancient ex members of the P.N.T.M.C, and had many stories to tell.

On Sunday morning all 5 of us wandered up towards Tiraha but two lads without ice axes had to turn back when the snow became icy. The rest of us cut steps up over Tiraha and wandered along the Ridge. Every knob was an excuse for a photograph and, provided one was patient, the mists would clear to yield some nice views, We raved about "how nice it was to be there" and "those irks down below don't know what they are missing" etc.

We returned to the Tukituki River via the Black Ridge and Rosvalls Track having really appreciated a nice trip on a weekend that was supposed to have lousy weather.

Trevor Bissell.

23rd - 24th September NAVIGATION WEEKEND

On arrival at Otaki Forks the leader despatched the two of us on the Fit trip into a wilderness area, with instructions to visit three points on the map; he then devoted his leadership qualities to the guidance of the easy party. The fact that he had no more knowledge of the area than we had was not regarded as an insurmountable difficulty at this stage. The cloud cleared and the day became bright and sunny as we began the first leg of our journey up Roaring Meg to reach the stream where we would begin our attempt at bush navigation. Unfortunately many of the rocks, though dry, once attacked by wet boots retaliated by becoming exceedingly slippery – then there were the waterfalls, gorges, and other obstacles created by flooding. At 3.00 p.m. we reached the stream from which we were supposed to start

our climb to Tent Trig. However, after some calculations we decided that our nylon 'tent' would be our destination and soon found a very good camp site. The abandonment of our first objective led to the decision to abandon all, in favour of bush navigation of a more modest nature. On Sunday morning we successfully ascended a spur with map and compass, and after a number of manoeuvres which ensued that we prove the compass does not lie! we headed along the ridge to drop off an open clearing to the Waiotaru.

The 'Easy' party, who had apparently discovered what a 'medium' navigation trip involved, appeared at the van an hour after we arrived there.

'Fit' party: Chris Saunders, Colin Hoare.

NAVIGATION TRIP (EASY)

The fitties, Colin and Chris, were despatched into the field with a task to perform.

The rest of us spent an hour discussing maps and compasses before setting off up Roaring Meg Stream. We waded thigh deep, slid on slippery rocks and avoided swimming on two occasions by scrambling through bush laced with thick clumps of supple-jack. Packs had to be passed down a steep bank from hand to hand before the owners jumped down. When any minor misfortune befell a member of the party Susan was quick to record the event (for later amusement) with her camera. After 4 hours of this "carry on" our newly acquired map reading skills told us that we had journeyed a distance of only 500 yards upstream from the road! Anyway, it was fun.

After a couple of hours of much better travel up river we decided that campsites were few and far between and backtracked down river for an hour to a good site. Most of the evening was spent by a small fire while we sang our way through Trudge (only the clean songs since there were gentlemen present).

Much of the morning was spent playing with compasses. That did not help get us home, however, so we broke camp and prepared ourselves for the final supreme effort. This was the climb up to the top of the ridge between the Waiotauru and Roaring Meg. Some discussion was held during this exercise, about "where we were" and "where we were going", but people were generally agreed that if all else failed the sea could be located somewhere to the west. A marching song was composed and sung for Susan's benefit to the tune of "Flick the little Fire Engine."

The difficult part of the navigation was done for us as our intended route down spurs to the Parawai Lodge had been cut and blazed.

Fitties: Colin Hoare and Chris Saunder's.

Easies: Jenny Smith, Susan Cade, Sarah Godfrey, Debbie Milne, Keith Millar and Trevor Bissell.

INTERCLUB QUIZ – September 26th

The walls of the Massey Social Sciences lecture theatre resounded once more to tones of great wisdom when, on the evening of Tuesday 26th September three teams of incomparable ability battled out who should lead the Palmerston North Tramping fraternity in knowledge and understanding of all things pertaining to mountains.

Quizmasters Richard Bradley, Trevor Reynolds and Kevin Pearce were relentless in the execution of their judgements, regularly pronouncing "the points for each question were allocated before the question was put" to quieten audience protestations and, with equally monotonous regularity, "are you sure?" following a comprehensive 3 part answer to a complex 3 part question by a certain omniscient member of the quiz-winning team.

Nine questions were put to each team covering literature biology, topography, rope-skills, biography, recognizing areas from slides, and local or general tramping or climbing knowledge, points being allocated for each part or whole answer. MUAC, the host team, took the honours, scoring the maximum points for almost every question put, with PNTMC scoring a not inglorious third to MT & SC's second placing. Peter Darragh, Brad Owen, Lawson Pither and Sue Streeter comprised our team - sexually balanced according to the rules.

Congratulations must go to the organizers of the quiz who did a first rate job of what must have been a difficult and unenviable task, to compile questions of variety and substance, as well as to MUAC for providing supper to follow the night's entertainment.

30th September – 1st October TWO PEAKS

It is amazing to what lengths people will go to save 50 cents hut fees. Lugging heavy packs up into South Crater and sleeping on a rope as insulation from the snow. Meanwhile, back in the valley there is Mangatapopo hut.

The weather wasn't quite perfect, there being cloud on Ngauruhoe, thus our leader's reputation for perfect weather wasn't confirmed. Nevertheless most of the party managed to get to the top of one or both of the two peaks (Tongariro and Ngauruhoe).

The Park was full of people, "millions" of them, swarming all over. Just a few years ago one could visit the Park and have a good chance of having the whole place to one's self. Not any more; tramping has become popular.

Those taking part included: Anne Flux, Colin Elliott, Kevin Pearce, Eric Van Toor, Philip Budding, Jan Grant, Colin Hoare, Owen Gurr, Susan Cade, Nick Bishop, Edna Cook, Keith Miller, Jenny Smith, Sarah Godfrey, Wendy Christoffeles.

LOAN - EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

The Club holds a stock of tramping and mountaineering equipment which is available on loan. The following regulations shall apply to the management and control of this equipment.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER

1. All equipment shall be under the control of the Equipment Manager (Gear Custodian) who shall be appointed by the Committee and who shall be responsible for -
 - (i) Providing safe storage of the equipment.
 - (ii) Lending and hiring out the equipment and ensuring that the conditions of loan are complied with.
 - (iii) Maintaining a record of all loans.
 - (iv) Issuing receipts for all hire money collected.
 - (v) Arranging for the repair of damaged equipment.
 - (vi) Making an Annual Report on the value and condition of the equipment and the amount of hire money collected.
 - (vii) Advising the Committee of the purchase of new equipment.
2. The Equipment Manger shall decline to lend or hire equipment unless he is satisfied that it will be correctly and safely used.

AVAILABILITY

3. Equipment shall only be lent to the following:
 - (i) Club Members.
 - (ii) Persons on Official Club trips.
 - (iii) Other tramping clubs and kindred organizations.
 - (iv) Others at the discretion of the Equipment Manager.

PRIORITY

4. Provided that reasonable notice is given to the Equipment Manager, Club trips shall have priority over Club members on private trips who shall have priority over all others.

LIABILITY

5. Persons or organizations borrowing equipment shall be liable for the full cost of repairing or replacing any damaged or lost equipment (normal wear and tear exempted.) The Committee may at its discretion reduce the extent of liability if:
 - (i) No negligence was involved, and
 - (ii) The value of the equipment was less than its repair or replacement cost, and
 - (iii) All conditions of loan were fully complied with.

CONDITIONS OF LOAN

6. (i) Equipment may only be borrowed at times convenient to the Equipment Manager.
 - (ii) Hire charges must be paid in advance.
 - (iii) Equipment must be returned in a clean and dry condition.
 - (iv) Any damage or loss must be reported to the Equipment Manager promptly.
 - (v) Equipment must be returned within one week of the trip.

HIRE CHARGES

7. Party equipment is free on official Club trips.
8. There will be two hire charges: weekend (one, two or three days' use) and weekly.
9. Weekend charges will apply for each and every weekend the equipment is in the custody of the borrower, regardless of whether the equipment is used or not.
10. Weekly charges will apply for the whole of the period the equipment is in the custody of the borrower, regardless of whether the equipment is used or not.
11. Weekend rates shall only apply when equipment is used or taken on tramps or climbs or three days or less.