

An easy day trip will tramp up the Mikimiki Stream which is a reasonably secluded little stream in the Eastern Taranaki and there is evidence of old logging tramways.

Leader: Stephen Moore, 81-699
Grading: Easy.
Cost: \$3.50
Depart: 7.00 p.m. Sunday.

3rd – 7th April NELSON LAKES

There will be room in the van for up to 6 people for a trip along the St. Arnaud Range in the Nelson Lakes National Park. There are numerous high lakes on the Range itself which should offer good places to camp. The descent from the Range will be made via the Arnst River to the Travers Valley and the track around Lake Rotoiti leads back to St. Arnaud.

We will catch the 6.40 p.m. sailing from Wellington to Picton and will drive through to St. Arnaud on the Thursday night. The 6.40 p.m. sailing on the Monday will return us to Wellington and we should be back in Palmerston around midnight.

Names to: Trevor Bissell, 73-543
Grading: Medium
Cost: 3.00 p.m. Thursday (i.e. one will need to leave work a little early).

4th – 7th April (or less) KAWEKA RANGE

The Kawekas lie to the north of the Ruahines and south east of the Kaimanawas and are very similar to the Kaimanawas. Trips of 3 or 4 days duration will be run starting and finishing at Kuripapango on the Napier - Taihape Road. The relevant map is the NZMS 1 Ngamatea Sheet N113.

Names to: Peter Darragh, 3-5633
Grading: Fit and Easy.
Cost: \$7.00
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Friday.

12th – 13th April ROCKCLIMBING INSTRUCTION – TITAHI BAY

A knowledge of the techniques of rock climbing is very useful to all trampers, even to those who do not intend to make a career of mountaineering. Crag climbing on the coastal cliffs at Titahi Bay with the safety of a top rope can be a lot of fun. Bring some clothing for the pictures on Saturday evening in Wellington.

Names to: Phillip Budding, 85-936
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$6.50 including accommodation.
Depart: 8.00 a.m. Saturday.

19th – 20th April HOWLETTS – RANGI CROSSING

One of the club's favourite crossings of the Ruahines.
Names to: Colin Hoare, 88-546
Grading: Fitness Essential
Cost: \$7.00
Depart: 6.30 p.m. Friday night.

19th – 20th April RANGI HUT – TRIANGLE HUT – OROURA RIVER

A good mixture of tops and river travel in the Ruahines.
Leader: Colin Hoare, 88-546
Grading: Medium
Cost: \$3.00
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

24th April CLUB NIGHT ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The year has turned full circle once again to this annual event. Look out your best slides and photographs (black and white or colour) as this competition offers fame and fortune. The rules are given elsewhere in this newsletter and should be studied carefully.

25th – 26th April (ANZAC WEEKEND) RUAHINE MAIN RANGE

The intention is to traverse the Main Divide of the Ruahines from Armstrong Saddle to Trig U and make use of the Medium party's transport to get from the Makaroro Base back to the cars.

Leader: Kevin Pearce, 70-217
Grading: Fitness Essential.
Cost: \$5.00
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Friday morning.

25th – 26th (ANZAC WEEKEND) LAKE COLENZO

The route will be up the Makaroro River to Colenso's spur, up onto the Main Divide at Te Atua Mahuru Trig, and down to Remutupo Hut. Lake Colenso can be visited in a day trip down river from there.

Names to: Kevin Pearce, 70-217
Grading: Medium
Cost: \$5.00
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Friday morning.

3rd – 4th May NAVIGATION EXERCISES – MAKAKAHI RIVER AREA

A little south of Eketahuna there is a nice patch of bush which should be ideal for learning how to find our way around without the aid of track markers and the like. There is an old crashed aircraft somewhere in this area. We will be fly camping on Saturday evening.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, 73-543
Grading: Fit and Easy.
Cost: \$2.50
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Saturday.

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NOTICES

LANDS AND SURVEY MAPS

The Club can order through F.M.C. maps at 33 1/3% discount. We make up orders from time to time of any of the maps put out by Lands and Survey. Give the map series number, sheet numbers and quantity to Terry (new phone No. 77-872.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Terry Crippen, 18 Colombo St., Palmerston North, phone 63-588.
Sarah Godfrey, 8 Muller Rd., Blenheim.

SOUTH ISLAND BRANCH

Palmerston North members of P.N.T.M.C. wish to thank John Carter for his hospitality during their January trip to the South Island.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Club supplies search and rescue teams whenever they are requested by the Police. In order to facilitate a rapid turnout the Club maintains a callout list of names and telephone numbers plus other relevant information. This list must be regularly updated and this is being done at present.

If your name is on the S.A.R. callout list and you haven't been contacted by Kevin Pearce recently, please ring him. If you would like to volunteer for S.A.R. and/or would like to go on a training exercise (SAREX) please also ring Kevin (phone 70-217 before 9.00 pm.)

The callout list is divided into parts – first call and second call. To be on the first call list generally you must be able to answer "yes" to all of the following questions:

1. Are you keen to be called out on S.A.R.?
2. Are you usually available and can you usually turn out at short notice (say 2 hours)?
3. Are reasonably fit, equipped and able to look after yourself?

- 4 If employed, will you continue to receive pay from your employer while on S.A.R.?

The minimum age for volunteers is 16 years and those under 18 require the consent of their parents.

If you are called out on S.A.R., unless specifically told otherwise, always come equipped with full storm gear, camping equipment, torch and food for four days. Party gear, such as tents is usually supplied to teams. A recommended food list for S.A.R. is available from Kevin upon request.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RULES

- 1. The Competition shall be in two parts:
 - (1) Colour slides.
 - (2) Prints (either colour or black and white.)
- 2. All photographs must have a tramping or mountaineering flavour.
- 3. The following are the Competition classes:
 - (1) Novice Open (any subject matter related to the Club's activities).
 - (2) Advanced Open.
 - (3) Novelty, Novice and Advanced combined. (Any unusual or amusing subject matter.)
- 4. A novice is a person who has not won or been placed in any photographic competition and who does not belong to a Camera or Photographic Club.
- 5. All photographs must have been taken by the competitor in whose name they are entered.
- 6. Photographs which have been entered in a previous P.N.T.M.C. competition may not be entered a second time.
- 7. An entry fee of 10 cents must accompany each and every slide and print entered in the competition. The money collected as entry fees will be used to provide cash prizes for the winners.
- 8. Entries close for all classes immediately before judging begins (approximately 8.00 p.m.)
- 9. Photographs may be entered in one class only.
- 10. The Judge's decision is final.
- 11. All slides and prints must bear the competitor's name and the class in which it is entered (Novelty or open).
- 12. All slides must be marked with a conspicuous spot in the lower left-hand corner when held for hand viewing. (This will ensure they are projected the correct way around).

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PAST EVENTS

28th – 31st December NORTHERN RUAHINE ESCAPEDE

After meeting on a very wet Friday night we departed for Makaroa Base camp, to arrive there still in the pouring rain. Trying to locate a good shelter in one of the houses we disturbed two red deer fawns penned in one old house – very young and beautiful animals.

After our recky we spent a good night in the hut with our metronome lullaby (which was powering an electric fence).

Peter cooked our Granola breaky and then we were off on another wet day to Park Peak Hut. The track was like a three lane highway and soon we were right on top of the ridge where the weather was still wet, misty and cold. At this point with the hut not much further on two of our number headed back – after deciding to have a dry weekend and not risk not being able to cross the river on the return. The rest of us then headed on to Park Peak Hut and Aorangi Ruin eventually camping on the tops not far from the ruin.

As it was still raining in the morning we headed back to Park Peak Hut where we had a good dry out and read of the hut book.

Our final day was spent tramping out again and finally walking along the road to meet our transport whilst it tried to rain again.

Trip Members: Peter Darragh, Debbie Hunt, Don French, Susan and Julie Cade.

A PICNIC IN THE GARDEN (27/12/79 – 4/1/80)

The New Zealand Garden of Eden is an ice plateau measuring approximately 9 x 1 km. And lying to the west of the Divide between Arthur's Pass and Mount Cook. It was to this grand spot that the chosen (Eric van Toor, Terry Crippen, Kevin Pearce, Marty Robbins and Nic Bishop) went after Christmas. Their route was up the flood devastated Wanganui River, over the Lord Range and Mount Stoddart to the Lambert Glacier, thence by way of Satan's Col to the Garden of Allah and Adams Col above the Garden of Eden where they snowcaved. The route out was down Eve's Rib to the Perth and Whataroa rivers. The weather throughout the picnic was reasonable with no pit days. Most of the camps were sandfly free and a number of peaks were climbed.

A PEAK OR A PASS A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR (Pearce, I presume) AWAY

6 th	Jan.	'80	Traversed Mount Rolleston
7 th	"	"	To Gizeh Bivy
8 th	"	"	Sphinx, Half Moon Saddles and Bristed Gorge.
9 th	"	"	Whitehorn and Harmen Passes.
10 th	"	"	To Barker Hut.
11 th	"	"	Climbed Murchison and Harper.
12 th	"	"	To Arthur's Pass.
13 th	"	"	Traversed Temple and Phipps.
14 th	"	"	To Edwards Hut.
15 th	"	"	Crossed Taruahuna, Tarn and Walker Passes.

A total of 5 peaks and 7 passes in 10 days.

Party: Kevin Pearce and Eric van Toor.

(Hearty applause.)

25th – 26th WALLS WHARE – CONE PEAK

After a brisk start on Saturday morning we all arrived at Wall's Whare to see the Waiohine River very swift and high, the muddy water hiding everything below the surface. So using our friend the swing bridge we took the easier route and sidled on up the true right of the river. It wasn't long before we were confronted with the next bridge – a narrow three wire traverse – which tested our nerves and balance as we each set off across it. With our hands clasping the top wires securely we swayed over Coal Stream gorge to start our climb to Cone.

From Cone Saddle we saw our first good views, but when we arrived on top we could only look longingly at Hector only a few more hours on. So clear was the day that all the distant views looked within a few steps, and the ridges just led you to them, superbly.

We camped for the night in a clearing, just a minute down from Cone in a sheltered spot from the gathering wind. In the morning as the clouds were being churned over the Tararua Peaks, we started our descent down Cone Peak, seeing the Main Range and Neil Winchcombe at many different and inviting angles.

After a slow descent to Totara Flats Hut we saw the river was still high and once again used the sidle track occasionally using the bank beside the river. At one point we were amazed as we walked along a muddy stretch to see the surface quiver and quake under us as we floundered through and around it. And then we were onto a last straight stretch to Wall's Whare.

Participants: Julian Dalefield, Catherine Farquahr, Susan Cade, Allan Dunn.

29th February – 2nd March ABORT-A-CONTORTA WEEKEND

Friday night saw two vans-full of us (together with some MUACs who were going to do some work on their hut) heading towards the Mountain, i.e. Tongariro National Park, to give a

weekend of our time helping the Park to eradicate Pinus contorta.

We stayed at Mangawhero Lodge just up the Ohakune Mountain Road on Friday night. Peter arrived at some much later hour with more people making a total of 16 of us to help in the Aborta-a-contorta work. Saturday morning the Park Rangers arrived, Norm Watson and Chris Rudge. After looking at the weather (wind plus rain) we decided to do some track maintenance initially. This was on a nature walk between Mangawhero Lodge and the Ranger Station down the Mountain Road.

Over lunch, with vague rumours that the weather was clearing, we decided to move to the contorta area so we set off in a convoy of Trevor's and Eric's vans together with a Park Board Land Cruiser. We went in through the Kariori Sate Forest which is just north of the Ohakune-Waiouru raod. This forest is planted in contorta and has been the source of the problem on the south and south-east side of Ruapehu.

Pinus contorta has a seed that spreads much easier than the seeds from the other pine species and it is very prone to transport by the winds. In 1962 the National Park Board began a programme to get rid of the contorta that had spread from the adjacent State Forests into the Park. Their own staff plus the volunteer groups from tramping and other clubs have been working on this since then. At present the programme has managed to get contorta under control within the Park boundary. However, new seeds are still being blown in from the State Forests. Land outside the National Park and the state forests such as the blocks of Maori, justice and army land also are major sources of the seed since this land has built up quite formidable amounts of contorta trees from seeds originating from the State Forest as well. The New Zealand Forest Service is helping to cut back one source by progressively crushing its contorta block by block and replanting in Pinus radiata (which does not have the spreading problem). The National Park Board is now concentrating its efforts in the other blocks (in our case some Maori land).

After a short walk from the forestry road end we set up camp by the Wahianoa River down valley from Tufa trig. Gleeefully we attacked the trees to give us good poles for the fly – it's not very often we are let loose in bushes with axes. Still raining, we did a couple of hours work up valley. Trees were from an inch or two high up to twenty or more feet. We used: our hands, pruners, axes and chain saws to remove all contorta big and small from our small area.

Saturday night caused a few problems for certain experienced Club members (camping on a dry stream bed!) however, since they had to abandon their fly they could make use of the small Park Ranger's Hut close by. Giving up the spread-out comfort of a wet fly for the cramped warmness of the hut.

Come Sunday more rain and wind, but we still managed to clear a worthwhile area. After a good day's work headed back wet and muddy to Palmerston North – with clutch problems in Peter's car.

Those taking part in the work were: Trevor Bissell, Kevin Pearce, Eric van Toor, Chrissie Elliot, Kim Davies, Mike and Kimo Wiltshire, Susan Deroles, Ian Alach, David Speller, Dianne Stanley, Debbie Hunt, Peter Darragh, Catherine Farquhar, Alan Dunn, Terry Crippen.

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The Newsletter Editor wishes to make a plea to leaders of trips to keep those trip reports coming in. Please keep them entertaining and informative and check spelling of place and people's names before submitting them to the Editor. Thank you.

TRIP SCHEDULE
MAY – JUNE

MAY

3 - 4	Navigation Exercises – Makakahi River Area	F & E
10 – 11	Haurangis	F & E
12 – 18	Southern Main Range – Tararuas	F.E.
17 – 18	Penn Creek	M
24 – 25	Hikurangi Range – Kawhatau River	F.E.
25	Kawhatau River	E.
31 - 2 June	Tongariro	E.

JUNE

7 - 8	Howletts – Pohangina	F
7 - 8	Pohangina Saddle	E
14 – 15	Camel Backs – Tararuas	F.E.
14 – 15	Avalanche Flats – Mangahao	M
21 – 22	Mid winter at Rangi	E
22	“ “ “	E
27 – 29	Caving at Waitomo	E
29	Diggers Hut	E

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P.N.T.M.C – NOMINATION FORM

I wish to nominate

.....
for the position of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Member. (Delete those not applicable.)

Nominated by:
Seconded
.....

Nominator, nominee and seconder must be financial members of the Club and this form must be signed by all three.

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PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (INC)
PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1979-80

Ladies and Gentlemen

I have much pleasure in presenting the Club's fourteenth annual report. The past year has been another busy and successful one with trips running most weekends. Club parties visited the Ureweras, Richmond Range, Aspiring, Kaikouras and Kapiti Island as well as the more common areas closer to home. The snowcraft courses were very popular and good standards of achievement were reached, aided by favourable weather. Rapidly rising travel costs continue to be a worry.

COMMITTEE

The Committee met on eleven occasions during the year. Terry Crippen and Colin Elliot were co-opted to replace Susan Cade and Sarah Godfrey who resigned, Susan to travel overseas and Sarah to take up a job in Blenheim. Chrissie Elliot was co-opted to strengthen the Committee in the conservation field.

I thank members of the Committee for their work. In particular our diligent Secretaries, Susan and Terry, our Treasurers, Sarah and Colin for keeping the books square, Trevor for organising trips, Eric for arranging Club Nights, Heather for editing and typing the Newsletter, Stephen for printing and Colin for posting the same. Colin also kept track of membership and membership enquiries. Nic looked after the Club gear and Chrissie dealt with matters pertaining to conservation. The Committee worked very much as a team with each member having special responsibilities.

NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is an important but increasingly expensive part of the Club's activities. As we meet only once a month (some large clubs meet weekly) the Newsletter is an essential source of information concerning coming events. Eleven issues were published and averaged 7 pages per issue.

MEMBERSHIP

The present membership of the Club stands at 5 junior, 57 seniors, 17 families, 2 life and one honorary member is up on previous recent years. The turnover in membership is fairly high and presents problems on occasions, especially in finding experienced leaders for easier trips. The trend towards an older average age has continued as reflected by the reduction in the number of junior members from the 15 last year to 5 this year.

INTRCLUB DEBATE

We retained the Trudge Trophy by soundly beating Massey Alpine Club over the question of whether "trampers are a privileged and elitist group". Thanks to our humble team of Chrissie Elliot, Terry Crippen and Trevor Bissell.

SPORTS WEEKEND

This is an annual event held near Wellington in the Rimutaka Forest Park each February. The premier events are the junior and senior marathons. Small numbers of Club members have been participating since 1975, with Trevor Bissell the Club's most consistent representative. The senior marathon is a handicapped event and is run in a friendly way without undue competition. I would very much like the Club to enter a four man team next year so that we can make an attempt in the teams' race.

Club participation is good for our reputation and allows us to meet and get to know our fellow trampers from Wellington.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

A most enjoyable and successful function was held at the Steeple at the end of November and was followed by the annual Christmas dinner at Rangī. Activities such as these complement our more energetic activities.

In conclusion I thank members for their support over the last two years during my term as President.

Kevin Pearce.