



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

**NEWSLETTER**

5/80

Hon Secretary: Terry Crippen, 63-588  
 Membership Enquiries: Catherine Farquhar, 64-297  
 Newsletter Editor: Heather Crabb, 77-668  
 Gear Custodian: Kevin Pearce 70-217  
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 Enquiries Concerning Overdue Trips:  
N.B. Work numbers are for emergency use only.  
 Kevin Pearce, Home 70-217 Work 74-129  
 Russ Johnson, 87-777 78-581  
 Heather Crabb, 77-668 77-668

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COMING EVENTS

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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29<sup>th</sup> May – CLUB NIGHT

"Down South – a muddly medley of pieces from east of the Alps." Keith Pollock, a  
 trumper, climber, skier and canoeist who has recently arrived in Palmerston North from  
 Dunedin will be entertaining us with his address.

At the Society of Friends' Meeting Room, 227 College St., at 7.45 p.m.  
 SUPPER DUTIES: Trevor Bissell, Gill Davies, Raewyn Devonshire.

5<sup>th</sup> June – COMMITTEE MEETING

At Philip Budding's, 7 McDonald Place, 7.45 p.m.

7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June – HOWLETTS – POHANGINA

A ridge top trip in the eastern Ruahines where the weather is always fine.  
 Leader: Terry Crippen, phone 63-588.  
 Grading: Fit.  
 Cost: \$5.00.  
 Depart: 6.30 a.m. Saturday.

7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> – POHANGINA SADDLE

An enjoyable area that has often been visited by the Club in recent years.  
 Leader: Terry Crippen, phone 63-588.  
 Grading: Easy.  
 Cost: \$5.00.  
 Depart: 6.30 a.m. Saturday.

14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June – CAMEL BACKS

An invigorating trip to a little visited region of the Tararuas for reasons that will become obvious during the trip.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, phone 73-543.  
Grading: Fitness Essential.  
Cost: \$3.00.  
Depart: 6.30 p.m. Friday.

14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – AVALANCHE FLATS

A walk up one of the more pleasant rivers in the Tararuas. The Flats are about five hours walk up the Mangahao River.

Leader: Don French, phone 73-543.  
Grading: Medium.  
Cost: \$3.00.  
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Saturday.

21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June – MID WINTER AT RANGI

Shortest day of the year means you can stay in bed longer. Should be a great piker's weekend – will prove to be as good as Xmas at Rangi.

Leader: Philip Budding, phone 85-936.  
Grading: Easy.  
Cost: \$3.50.  
Depart: 8.00 a.m. Saturday.

22<sup>nd</sup> June – MID WINTER AT RANGI

Day trip to arrive early enough to get overnighing party out of bed.

Leader: Philip Budding, phone 85-936.  
Grading: Easy.  
Cost: \$3.50.  
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Sunday.

27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June – CAVING AT WAIOTOMO

Let's go under instead of over, with the guiding hands of M.S.G. Try to figure out why they enjoy crawling around in the mud.

No. 1 Worm: Trevor Bissell, phone 73-543.  
Grading: Easy.  
Cost: \$10.00 approx.  
Depart: 6.30 p.m. Friday Night.

NOTES ON CAVING TRIP

Bring along a reliable torch with spare bulb and several spare batteries or even better, a carbide lamp if you have one. Lots of wool should be brought along, particularly woollen singlet, jersey and long johns. Some sturdy old clothes to wear over top are a must. Lots of cavers use overalls. Boots on the feet. The M.S.G. will supply helmets. A change of dry clothes is a must when you get out of the caves.

WARNING: Cavers eat strange food like bacon, eggs and steak instead of dehy. They also have a strange habit of sleeping in.

29<sup>th</sup> June – DIGGER'S HUT

A pleasant Sunday trip for those who prefer to keep out of the mud of the caves.

Names to: Don French, phone 73-543.  
Grading: Easy.  
Cost: \$3.00.  
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Sunday.

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NOTICES

SUBSCRIPTIONS - SUBSCRIPTIONS - SUBSCRIPTIONS

This will be your last newsletter if your subs are not paid this month – also you will miss out on the discount.

Your penny pinching treasurer, Don French, is pacing the floor in his flat waiting for those subs to come rolling in, or you can hand them in him at the next Club Night.

At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the P.N.T.M.C. held on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> May the following subscriptions were set for the year 1980/81:

	Full Rate	Prior 1 <sup>st</sup> June
Family		9.00
Family	10.00	
Adult	9.00	8.00
Junior (still at school)	5.50	4.50

#### NEW MEMBERS

Ann Hayman,	25 Tiritea Rd., R.D. 4, P.N.	Phone 73-991.
Roddy Henderson,	18 Colombo St., P.N.	" 63-588

Welcome to these new members.

#### NEWSLETTERS

Librarian Philip Budding is trying to fill in gaps in the collection of Club Newsletters for our archives. If anyone has back copies from August 1977, please contact Philip, 85-936.

#### LOST WATCH

Did anyone lose a watch at the Abort-a-contorta weekend (1 – 2 March). If so contact Terry (phone 63-588).

#### RECORD OF TRIPS

At the last committee meeting it was decided to keep a record of Club trips (numbers going, where to etc.). This information will be added to the committee meeting minutes and used to give a summary of Club activities in annual reports etc. Persons leading trips please give the Secretary (Terry, 63-588) this information.

NOTE: This doesn't let you out of writing a trip account for our Newsletter – so keep those trip accounts coming in.

#### GEAR HIRE

The Gear Custodian would like to draw attention to the fact that some hire gear is not being treated with the care it needs. For instance, small holes have been found in a tent fly as a result of using it as a roof rack cover.

Persons hiring gear are asked to treat all Club equipment with due care and keep track of it when out on a trip. Recently some people have been charged an amount for lost gear. Make yourself conversant with the following regulations:

#### 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 on the purchase of new equipment.
2. The Equipment Manager 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 organisations.
- (iv) Others at the discretion of the Equipment Manager.

PRIORITY

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

LIABILITY

5. Persons or organisations 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 of three days or less.  
12. Hire Rates shall be as follows:

	Weekend	Weekly
Ice Axe	50 c.	\$1.00
Crampons	50	1.00
Rope, mountaineering	50	1.00
Tent	30	60
Tent fly, new	50	1.00
“ “ old	30	60
Billy	30	60
Stove + fuel bottle (fuel extra)	30	60
Pressure Cooker	50	1.00
Pack	30	60
Sleeping Bag	30	60
Sleeping Bag Cover	30	60
Rope, river crossing	30	60
First aid kit	free	free
Bivvy Bag	50	1.00

Non-members of private trips will be charged double these prices.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF OUR NATIONAL PARKS

New Zealand is fortunate in having ten well run National Parks. As a tramping and mountaineering club we make considerable use of these parks and in the past twelve months it is likely that members would have visited every one of the Parks.

At present each park has its own board which administers, manages and controls the park in accordance with the provisions of the National Parks Act. Boards vary slightly in composition but generally consist of nine persons. The chairman is always the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the land district in which the park is situated (i.e. an official of the Department of Lands and Survey). Other members of the board are mainly private citizens and include one person from Federated Mountain clubs (F.M.C.). (Our Club is a member of F.M.C.)

The National Parks Authority has eleven members (six government officials and five private members) and has an overall coordinating role. The ten Park Boards and the Authority are serviced (i.e. provided with secretaries, accounts kept etc.) by the Department of Lands and Survey (L. & S.) which also employs the National Park Rangers.

In March, 1979 a national party Caucus Committee (i.e. a small group of National Members of Parliament) were asked by the Minister of Lands "to investigate the present Board and Authority based administrative structure for National Parks and Reserves administered by L. & S., and to recommend any changes considered desirable to meet present day needs".

It is believed that the Government is concerned over the very large number and cost of the various types of reserve boards (about 950) in New Zealand. The Committee received submissions from various individuals and organisations including a secret submission from L. & S. Most of the other 108 submissions seem to have supported the present system of administration of National parks and suggested only minor changes. The Committee chose to accept the L. & S. recommendations which provide, among other things, L. & S. to take over all power from the Boards and the Authority. There seems to be few, if any, advantages in such a change which would bring our parks under the control of the Minister of Lands and a centralised bureaucracy. This change is proposed even though L. & S. recognised that the present system has worked well over a long period and a great deal of time and effort has been put in by hundreds of dedicated citizens as members of various boards.

If the recommendations of the Caucus Committee are accepted by the Government their passage into law becomes a mere formality. It is important, therefore, to convince National Party M.Ps not to accept the Committee's recommendations concerning National parks. The Club Committee is at present working towards this end with our local M.Ps.

TOUR TO NEW GUINEA

8<sup>th</sup> November, a 24 day adventurous tour in the rugged Papua-New Guinea highlands. Highlands – a trip up the Sepik river and evening walks into the forest with a naturalist. Cost \$3658. Further details from Mrs N. Hodgson, Phone 77-280.

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PAST EVENTS

1<sup>st</sup> May – PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Once again John Cleland came along to judge and give invaluable advice on taking slides and photographs. The standard of photography, he said was very high and with many entries he had a difficult job choosing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places in each section.

The results were:

Slides – Advanced Open

- |                 |            |                             |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Nic Bishop | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Don French. |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | D. Brown   |                             |

Novice Open

- 1<sup>st</sup> Carol Cullen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Terry Crippen
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Carol Cullen

Novelty

- 1<sup>st</sup> Roddy Henderson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Roddy Henderson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Philip Beech

Colour Prints – Advanced Open

- 1<sup>st</sup> Philip Beech
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Don French
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Don French

Novice Open

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sue Cade
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Terry Crippen

Novelty

- 1<sup>st</sup> Roddy Henderson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Don French

Black & White – Advanced Open

- 1<sup>st</sup> Roddy Henderson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Roddy Henderson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Roddy Henderson

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TRAMPERS' SENIOR MARATHON 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1980

This is an annual event held in the Rimutakas near Wainuiomata and is organised by the Tararua Tramping Club. Partial results were as follows:

	Club	Place	Time			
Tiere Lund	WTMC	1	35	1 h.	46 m.	29 s.
Peter Nixon	TTC	2	24	1 h.	38 m.	31 s.
Ken Rigby	Police TC	3	9	1 h.	32 m.	15 s.
Brent Harrison	TTC	4	3	1 h.	23 m.	35 s.
<u>Kevin Pearce</u>	PNTMC	5	29	1 h.	42 m.	39 s.
Chris Morey	TTC	7	1	1 h.	14 m.	51 s.
Tony Gazley	WTMC	21	2	1 h.	23 m.	15 s.
<u>Trevor Bissell</u>	PNTMC	40	17	1 h.	35 m.	59 s.
<u>Tim Short</u>	PNTMC	58	61	1 h.	44 m.	09 s.

The race is run on a handicap and both the handicap place and time place are given. Tim lost his way and this inflated his time. Trevor has been the Club's most consistent performer, having run 6 times and his best effort was in 1979 when he ran the course in 1 h. 27 m. 57 s. to come 19<sup>th</sup> past the post and 6<sup>th</sup> on time.

The event attracts both the athlete and the run-for-fun amateur and is run (and walked!) in a friendly way. Those of more modest fitness or of greater age (sometimes 60+ years!) aim merely to finish or to improve on their previous performances.

SEARCH AND RESCUE – 31<sup>st</sup> March. 1980

Club members Eric van Toor, Philip Beech (canoeist), Tim Short, Don French, John Patterson, Colin Elliot and Kevin Pearce were involved in a short unsuccessful search for a woman possibly missing from the vicinity of the Fitzherbert Bridge. The quick turn out of members was gratifying.

5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> – 7 DAYS IN ARTHURS PASS

Route Anti-Crow – Sphinx Saddle – Avoca – Half Moon Saddle – Bristed Stream – Wilberforce – Gifford Stream – Farquharson Saddle – Retreat Snowfield – Hall Col – Hall Creek – Browning Pass – Wilberforce – Pope Pass – Julia Creek – Mary Creek – Harman Pass – Waimakariri – Waimakariri Col – Rolleston River – Otira.

A late morning start saw us up the Anti-Crow and over Sphinx Saddle to camp high among the tussocks in Easy Stream overlooking the Avoca. The stories of deer in this valley were confirmed by the sound of the roar as we crossed the saddle. As we sat in the warmth of the campfire we were visited by the local stag, who, curious of these intruders to his valley walked boldly up to inspect us. Misty drizzle started to fall during the night and this was to persist with varying intensity for the rest of the trip.

The following day damp clouds hung on Half Moon Saddle as we dropped down scree slopes, veering left to avoid bluffs. An attempted sidle of the Bristed Gorge was

elected. A snowgrass shelf led us through to scrub and eventually bush where a good deer trail was located, which cut out the first half of the gorge.

After a dry night in Weka Bivvy we boulder hopped up Gifford Stream to Farquharson Saddle and into the white stillness of the Retreat snowfield. Skirting under the elusive Grave Col we located Hall Col from among the clouds. The snow chute from the col into Hall Stream was avoided in favour of scree slopes to the left. An ideal campsite was picked among tarns high above Hamer Falls. In a brief flirtation with the beauty of nature the weather lifted her veils of cloud a little to reveal the Wilberforce flowing from the rugged ridges of its headwaters. One was reminded of a verse found in the Avoca Hut:

“The Avoca flows with beauty, simple and clear,  
Half the bliss of a woman’s kiss,  
But a damn sight more sincere.”

Overnight the rain fell heavier than usual, even the wetas came to the sanctuary of the tent. The uninvited opportunists were evicted come morning.

Browning and Pope’s Pass were crossed and the gentle valley of Julia Creek descended. Julia Hut was chosen for a rest day spent bathing in the hot springs and cooking pancakes on the fire.

Mary Creek gave access to hanging valleys below Harman Pas. Tussock, wind and cloud coloured the ranges in lovely tones of bleak beauty. After lunch at Carrington the Waimakariri was followed up to Waimak Falls Hut.

On our last day we crossed Waimakariri Col and exited to Otira via the Rolleston River. A lift back to Arthur’s Pass was ‘hitched’ in the guard’s van of a passing freight train.

Marty Robbins and Nic Bishop.

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March – HOLDSWORTH – HEREPAI

Friday night was spent at Powell Hut attempting to sleep through the industrious noises of “Jaws” the local metal eating super rat as he gnawed at the hut wall. A strong breeze greeted us as we reached the top of Holdsworth and accompanied us along the ridge tops. A late lunch was had at Tarn Ridge Hut listening to wind and rain buffeting the walls. Lunch was suitably extended until courage was summoned for a quick dash onto Arete Biv. By morning the winds had stilled and inquisitive of this silence the door was opened to reveal the day’s beginning in blue and gold. A fringe of cloud formed among the peaks of Dundas Ridge as we continued northward and this slowly built up so that we returned to our compasses for direction. Herepai Hut was reached for lunch and soon we were out at the Roaring Stag road end.

Marty Robbins and Nic Bishop.

#### 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April – RUAHINE MAIN RANGE

It was an appalling sight, an F.E. party wandering in circles, lost in a maze of tourist paths. They met a family group going the other way. What a shame! Eventually years of practice and innate skill saved them. They found a signpost pointing the way to Armstrong Saddle! After that things were easy. They had no difficulty finding their way north through scrub, over open tops, past Maropea to a camp in the tussock near Te Atuamahuru. The night was fine, mild and dewless.

Next day, still smarting from the disgrace of the previous morning, the quintet continued north in sunshine to Tupari, Piopio, almost to Aranga Hut. From here they descended a bush covered spur to the Makaroro River and the Upper Makaroro Hut. The river showed signs of considerable flood damage. Shortly after their arrival at the hut a remnant of the Medium Party arrived hot foot from Lake Colenso. These late arrivals seemed put out when they found they would have to camp due to lack of space in the hut.

Sunday was fine but cloudy and the combined “A” and “X” parties made a quick trip

down river to the vehicles. Members of the F.E. party were: Kevin Pearce, Eric van Toor, Colin Hoare, Peter Wiles, Roddy Henderson.

### 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April – ANZAC WEEKEND REFLECTIONS

5.30 a.m. Massey Hut, hot cup of Milo in my hands – must be a grand weekend ahead.

After breakfast loaded packs onto backs, headed off up mountain. Ice axe out, crampons on, and still we go up. Pack feeling heavier, sun getting hotter, at least excellent cramponing conditions. Direct for summit of Tahurangi instead of using the usual 'Kune ridge'. Top at last. Laze in sun, eat lunch, meet friends long not seen, talk.

Say Goodbye, depart summit, crampons off, snow softer. Wander round Crater Lake, showing signs of recent activity. Erect tent, laze in sun, and watch beautiful sunset, prepare tea, then to bed.

Peter gets us up at 2.30 a.m. go back to bed to 6.00 a.m. far better time. Breakfast, on with boots, then off to Te Heu Heu for south face. Angle pleasantly steep, snow hard, front points hold fast, axes grip well. Move unroped and glide smoothly up face.

Laze in early sun on summit, plenty of photographs. Then traverse ridge west, to find water ice cliffs. Must climb them and do. Ice overhang, struggle up, great fun.

West again, to climb Paretaitanga by snow and rock route. Return to tent for lunch, and climbing rock warmed by afternoon sun on Cathedral Rocks. Retreat back to tent as wind comes up, prepare for night.

Come morning, weather Terrible, pack up, must go home. Set compass and follow zig zag course, to arrive at Turoa Shelter. Welcome sight as struggle out of wind and rain. Chocolate, then out again, on route for car. Three weary climbers arrive at car, happiness to be out of wind and rain. It was a grand weekend.

The three are: Terry Crippen, Peter Darragh, Donald French.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May – NAVIGATION EXERCISE – MAKAKAHI RIVER AREA

It seemed like a Massey takeover as they phoned in for this trip and then it seemed like a MUAC trip. As they all arrived late on Saturday morning – but besides all that it turned out to be a great weekend.

The navigation started in the car to find the correct road end to the Makakahi River. Then a lesson on how to set a map and take a bearing was given before we left the car. It was to be a trip following bush clad ridges which all seemed to go at old angles to each other. The ridge travel was good most of Saturday as we went to Tawhero Peak and further, but deteriorated rapidly as we attempted to head off the ridge down to the Ruamahanga River – a lot of leatherwood and dracophylum grovelling. We landed ourselves right at Roaring Stag Lodge, but being a brave breed we pitched our fly nearby and had a coolish night in full moonlight.

Sunday morning we used the track to gain height and successfully found our way back on to the ridges. More grovelling and scratched bodies as we hit the *Olearia colensoi* layer, and then on to Kaiparoro and back to the car. We had to climb trees only a couple of times when we didn't trust the compass.

Those learning were Louise Coats, Andrew Hollings, Steven Moore, Catherine Farquhar and Chrissie Elliot.