



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

NEWSLETTER

7/80

Hon Secretary:	Terry Crippen,	63-588
Membership Enquiries:	Catherine Farquhar,	64-297
Newsletter Editor:	Philip Budding	85-936
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
 Don French 73-543 80-449
 Philip Budding 85-936 Woodville 8236

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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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<u>Tuesday 29 July</u>	<u>Tuesday 29 July</u>	<u>Tuesday 29 July</u>
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Club Debate at Massey SS1 at 8.00 pm

TOPIC
 That Arawhata Bill's shovel cuts better steps than the modern day ice axe.
 PNTMC has taken the affirmative so come along and support your club.
 For transport out to Massey and enquiries – ring Kevin Pearce 70-217.

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August 7 Committee Meeting at Chris Elliot 10 Ascot Street, 7.45 pm.

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25 – 27 July – SOUTHERN CROSSING (Same as last newsletter)

27 July – RENATA HUT (Same as last newsletter)

2 – 3 August – ROCK CLIMBING

A chance to improve your falling technique at Titahi Bay – some instruction may be given in how not to fall off.

Leader: Philip Budding, Phone 85-936
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$7.50 approximately includes accommodation
Depart: 7.00 am Saturday
Bring some clothing for Saturday evening in Wellington.

9 – 10 August – HOLDSWORTH – MITRE

Another in our series of classic Tararua trips. This trip involves much top travel, so please bring ice axes.

Leader: Trevor Bissell
Grading: Fitness Essential
Cost: \$5.00
Depart: 6.00 am Saturday

9 – 10 August – POWELL HUT

Into the snow on the Eastern Tararuas to Powell Hut on the bush edge. Mt Holdsworth if conditions are favourable.

Leader: Chrissie Elliot, 72-334
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$5.00
Depart: 6.00 am Saturday

16 – 17 August – TAMAKI - MAKERETU

An interesting route using five streams and four low bush saddles. Most of which lie along a single faultline.

Leader: Tim Short, Phone 75-038 (between 6 and 8 pm)
Grading: Fit
Cost: \$6.00
Depart: 6.00 am Saturday

16 – 17 August – TAMAKI – HAPPY DAZE HUT

An easy weekend in the Eastern Ruahine in the Makeretu Valley.

Names to: Tim Short, Phone 75-038 (between 6 and 8 pm)
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$6.00
Depart: 7.00 am Saturday

22 – 23 August – BASIC SNOWCRAFT COURSE

This is a weekend at Massey Hut on the Turoa side of Mt Ruapehu where basic snowcraft will be taught. Be quick, numbers are limited.

Leader: Terry Crippen, Phone 63-588
Grade: Medium
Cost: \$17.00
Depart: 6.00 pm Friday

24 August – MAHARAHARA CROSSING

An East-West crossing of the Southern Ruahine. Good views of both sides of the Ruahine and a sea of leatherwood may be seen from the safety of a super track.

Names to: Terry Crippen
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$4.00
Depart: 6.00 am Sunday

30 – 31 August – MOKAI PATEA – WAIKAMAKA RIVER

A good mix of Mokai-Patea tops and Waikamaka river travel.

Leader: Colin Hoare, Phone 88-546
Grade: Fit
Cost: \$5.00
Depart: 6.00 am Saturday

30 – 31 August – OTAKOTA HUT

If snow conditions permit we will cross the Mokai-Patea range from Kawhatau base to Otakota Hut in the Waikamaka River.

Leader: Keith Miller
Grade: Medium
Cost: \$5.00
Depart: 6.00 am Saturday



NOTICES

Informal Club night Thursday 31 July at the society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street at 7.45 pm.

Bring your own slides, maps, prints etc. Bring something for supper. Got any tramping gear you want to sell? Bring it along (old boots, packs etc.). Perhaps some club member may want to buy it!

Copies of Trudge are being reprinted and will shortly be available.

Trips have been cancelled unnecessarily because of names arriving after Wednesday night. Please have names in, on or before the Wednesday night the trip leaves. This allows transport etc. arrangements to be made.

Topographical Maps

The Club can purchase these through FMC and get a 30% discount. People wanting maps please contact Terry Crippen 63-588 with NZMS number and sheet number and number required.

New Members

Carol Cullen 18 Colombo Street, Phone 63-588.
Leyden Petterson 56 Chelwood Street, Phone 63-288
Mike and Maureen Davidson 56 Batt Street, Phone 77-767

NOTICES (Continued)

Additions to Membership List

U. D Jensen, Box 27 Apiti, Phone 873
Ian Little 122 Lethbridge Street, Palmerston North, Phone 35-703
Jenny Smith 3 Gloag Street, Waverly, Phone 161

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Bruce Hut, Mokai Patea Range, Ruahine State Forest Park is to be demolished by the N.Z. Forest Service after the 30 September 1980.

Letter to the Editor

I am writing to express my concern at the decline in the hardiness of the Club. Two particular events show this:

Last winter on the annual "Mid Winter at Rangī" Trip, two of us (out of a total of 6) braved the low temperatures and snow and had the traditional swim in the stream. However, at this winter's event only one person (from 12 or more who went on the trip) took the plunge. Even then there was doubt as to whether this was a show of hardiness or an accident. The person involved was a certain Frenchman who may have still been in an intoxicated state from the previous nights debauchery and may have fallen in accidentally.

Also last month, the Club planned a trip to the Camel Backs in the Tararua's (country fit only for the hard "Tongue and Meats" and the TTC's). Not one person put their name down for this trip (I was unfortunately unable to go on it as I was involved with a major PNSSWSNZAC rock climbing expedition to the South). Further more the proposed trip leader (who is doing post doctoral research into Olearia Colensoi) was coerced into staying in Palmerston North that weekend to attend a very debauched (i.e. MUAC) annual dinner. Even his van had to be immobilised to stop him attempting a Sole Day crossing of the Camel Backs on the Saturday.

Do these events suggest that we PNTMC are getting soft? So far this decline isn't well known thank goodness. Last Tuesday evening MUAC at their club night referred to us as the Palmerston North "Tongue and Meats" – surely a good compliment. I only hope we can keep our prestigious position and climb out of the temporary decline.

Yours
A Bill

Well, A Bill, you mentioned that last year you went for the mid winter swim and this year you did not! although you were also there. Maybe it is you who is becoming soft and not wanting to face up to a good hard day's slog and are trying to pass the buck on to others. Not a hopeful sign for you at all.

Editor

ILLEGAL USE OF CYANIDE

Recently six of us from the Club did a Sunday trip onto the Ngamoko Range in the Ruahines, going up Knights Track. We found cyanide poison and flour bait laid on the track and adjacent farm land. The poison was spaced at 50 meter intervals right up the middle of the track!! Since this stuff is highly lethal we decided to inform the Forest Service about it. They were pleased that we brought this to their notice, apparently this line was illegally laid and the Forest Service are trying to find out who did it.

Usually cyanide paste is placed with a small pile of flour, sometimes flavoured with jam etc, often at the base of trees. The poison works by the cyanide paste reacting with moisture and releasing cyanide gas – deadly poison.

There are a number of legal requirements and Forest Service policies that have to be obeyed when persons use cyanide for opossum poisoning. Some of these are:

1. Up to date signs must be near the poisoning area and tracks.
2. The cyanide bait must be laid off the side of tracks.
3. The used cyanide paste tubes must not be left lying around.
4. Users of cyanide paste must have a permit from the Forest Service.

So if you ever see any doubtful use of cyanide please let the Forest Service know. Also beware of unusual tubes, this or other material, or odd smells in/or near huts or elsewhere.

Terry Crippen

OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS CLUB TRIP (1) 1980/81

This will be from Nelson Lakes to Lewis Pass by a devious route, yet to be determined. Leaving Palmerston North Boxing Day. Time spent in the hills 8 – 10 days. The country will be easy to medium but you should be fit, in order to carry all the food needed and still enjoy yourself. Limit 8 persons.

If numbers warrant it another trip will be considered.

Contact Roddy Henderson, Phone 63-588

BILL PUTS NATIONAL PARKS IN JEOPARDY!

The Threat – Ministerial Takeover

The scenic, scientific and recreational values of our National Parks are threatened by the new National Parks Bill, promoted by the Minister of Lands, Venn Young. As it presently stands, this Bill will abolish the current respected National Parks Act which has been in force since 1952. The Bill will take away management powers from the independent National Parks Authority, and from local Park Boards, and give them to the Minister and his Department.

National Development Act By the Back Door?

The National Development Act was originally to apply to National Parks. Public pressure induced Parliament to stop most National Park legislation being over-ridden.

Now we find the same over-riding powers have returned in the guise of the Minister's authority in this National Parks Bill. New Zealanders have every reason to be disturbed at this about-face.

• The Bill's Ten Major Faults •

1. The Minister could disregard the preservation ideal fundamental to National Parks (Clause 4 (2) (b)).
2. The Minister takes new powers in a total of twenty five clauses.
3. No constraint is placed on what the Minister can authorise in a National Park.
4. The Minister could direct the Authority to approve policy counter to the principles of the National Parks Act (Clause 18). Mining, the raising of lakes such as Manapouri (for hydro-electric development), or excessive roading, or golf courses, could now be allowed by Ministerial decree.
5. A ten person Authority is to set policy, but only two of the members are required to have scientific or conservation knowledge.
6. Seven of the ten Authority members would be Ministerial appointees, yet none of these need have a concern for the protection of or an interest in the Parks.
7. User and local views could be ignored because Boards would be advisory only.
8. No attempt is made to modernise the concept of a National Park, in respect of conservation.
9. Ministerial appointment to Boards replaces Authority recommended appointees.
10. Complete lack of detail on the reserves that are to be transferred to Boards, and responsibilities and powers of the Boards and Authority over them.

Why the Change?

Most user groups have expressed strong opposition to the Bill. The Minister claims cost savings will result. Yet he refuses to release a departmental report which would allow the public to assess this claim.

The money spent on parks, which cover 8% of the country, is small anyway – about \$4 million. This is about the same as the money currently being allocated by the obscure Marginal Lands Board, and miniscule by comparison with the thousands of millions being spent on energy projects.

National Parks are the People's

Not the Minister's

Express your concern. Contact your MP and ask him to press for the Bill's withdrawal.

Write a submission to the Secretary, Lands and Agriculture Select Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington, before 11 August 1980, and say why you object to the Bill.

Published by: Environment and Conservation Organisations of NZ Inc., Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc, Native Forest Action Council Inc, and the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of NZ Inc.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS BILL

Supplement to
PNTMC Newsletter

'Why the Change?' Dominion Editorial 26 July.

'N.Z. Forest and Bird Protection Society has objected to the transfer of power.' Dominion 3 July.

'Dictatorship feared in park changes.' Waimate West County Council, 30 April.

'Ominous National Park Plan' — Editorial, N.Z. Herald 27 March.

'We call on the Minister to exempt the National Parks system from his plan to restructure the administration of all Parks and Reserves.' Joint statement by Presidents of Federated Mountain Clubs of N.Z. Inc., N.Z. Ski Association, and Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, 14 May.

'Public may lose say on National Parks.' Federated Mountain Clubs, Christchurch Star, 31 March.

'These supervisory committees have rightly been described as toothless watchdogs.' Christchurch Star.

'National Parks Plan "highly undesirable".' Private members of the Fiordland National Park Board, Southland Times, 31 March.

'Council to fight Park takeover.' Hawera District Council, Taranaki Daily News, 29 April.

'The Te Anau Community Council and the Wallace County Council are strongly opposed to the planned legislation.' April.

'The Bill also jeopardises the scientific and conservation purpose of National Parks.' Environment and Conservation Organisations, 30 July.

'The greatest land grab of all time.' Sir Basil Arthur, Opposition M.P. in the House, 1 July.

'The administration of National Parks is the responsibility of the Minister and the Department. The administrative powers and functions formerly exercised by Boards are, for the most part, vested in the Minister.' National Parks Bill 1980.

'(c) To exercise such powers and functions relating to such reserves or groups of reserves as may be notified by the Minister from time to time under section 9 of the Reserves Act.' Functions of Boards, National Parks Bill, 1980.

'Bill confirms worst fears.' Federated Mountain Clubs, 14 July.

'Help protect National Parks from political interference.' Rod Syme, member of the National Parks Authority for twenty years, Hawera Star, 24 July.

'Under the legislation the Government will be able to bulldoze its way through National Parks.' Geoffrey Palmer, Opposition M.P. in the House, 1 July.

'This land is YOUR land. It soon won't be unless you take action.' Advertisement by the Save Egmont Campaign, 26 July.

'... particularly if you believe as I do that the whole business has less to do with efficiency than with keeping the pie open for fingers.' Christchurch Star, 4 July.

'The stronger that local control can be made, and the further from Wellington it is centered, the better.' N.Z. Herald, 27 March.

'AS A PARK USER I AM AS CONCERNED AS ANYONE TO SEE THAT NATIONAL PARKS ARE PROTECTED FOR PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT.' The Hon. Venn Young, Speech to Federated Mountain Clubs A.G.M., 25 May.

The last word comes from the Mount Aspiring National Park Board in the Otago Daily Times, 28 July—
'It is the philosophy of the Bill that is at fault, and the only real way of fixing it is to withdraw it.'