



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

NEWSLETTER

10/80

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
Heather Crabb 77-668 77-668
Don French 73-543 80-449

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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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NOTE: CLUB NIGHTS

As began last month we now have two club nights per month. Two weeks before the formal club night there is the informal one to give us more time for meeting and discussing.

On the last Thursday of the month a formal one with guest speaker. Both at the same place and starting time – Society of Friends' Hall 227 College St., 7.45 p.m.

24th – 27th October LABOUR WEEKEND – MIDDLE CROSSING TARARUAS

Bring full storm gear and torches for this classic trip.
Leader: Keith Pollock, ph. 69-771
Grading: Medium.
Cost: \$4.00.
Depart: 6.00 p.m. Friday night.

26th – 27th October MITRE FLATS

Another good trip into the bush for the mild trampers.
Leader: Dianne Stanley, ph. Pahiatua 3633.
Grading: Easy.
Cost: \$4.00.
Depart: 6.30 a.m. Saturday.

24th – 27th October SOUTH ISLAND

Medium – Fit to the Nelson Lakes area. F.E. to the Central part of the Alps. Don French, ph. 73-543.

30th October CLUB NIGHT (Formal one, last Thursday of month)

Dave Bamford, mountaineer, who is at present a Ranger at Tongariro National Park, but was based at Westland National Park and is a co-producer of the 1981 Alpine Calendar will give a talk on CLIMBING IN THE SOUTHERN ALPS.

All welcome. At the Society of Friends' Hall, 227 College St., 7-45 p.m.

SUPPER DUTIES: Heather Crabb, Anne Hayman, Roddy Henderson.

1st – 2nd November SOUTHERN KAIMANAWAS – OTUMATAI RANGE – PATUTUA AREA

Come to the lovely Kaimanawas – you can bet the weather will be spot on up north!

Leader: Terry Crippen, ph. 63-588.
Grade: F.E., Fit & Medium.
Depart: 6.30 p.m. Friday.

4th November S.A.R. RADIO EVENING

The new TR105 radios have finally arrived and it is time for all those on the Club's SAR list (and those who wish to volunteer for SAR) to familiarise themselves with the news sets. There will be practical exercises in their use. Also on display will be the SAR caravan.

Names to: Kevin Pearce, ph. 70-217.
Time: 7.30 p.m. Tuesday, 4th Nov.
Place: Front Entrance Lido Swimming Complex.

6th November COMMITTEE MEETING

At Catherine's, 17 Matipo St., 7.45 p.m. sharp.

8th – 9th November RANGI – HOWLETTS

A nice quick walk into Rangi hut. Then it's into the wild dramatic, exciting adventures of the mid Ruahines and across to Howletts hut.

Leader: Peter Wiles, 74-129 ext. 805.
Grade: F.E.
Depart: 6.30 a.m. Saturday.
Cost: \$3.50.

9th November TUKI TUKI RIVER

A very enjoyable tramp up the Tuki Tuki River in the Eastern Ruahines. This will be graded according to demand.

Names to: Dianne Stanley, ph. PHA 3633.
Cost: \$4.00
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Sunday.

8th November WORKING PARTY – RANGI HUT

Yes it's that time again and we need all the help possible to improve that mighty hut of ours, so come on – the weather is bound to be fine.

Leader: Philip Budding, ph. 85-936.
Grade: Easy.
Cost: \$3.50.
Depart: 6.30 a.m.

13th November INFORMAL CLUB NIGHT – TARARUA BISCUIT COMPETITION

Make some of those famous things (trials for south Island this summer) – bring them along to our expert panel of judges led by Trev Bissell (a food expert).

Bring along slides, prints, gear to sell or just yourselves and have a chat with your friends, meet new members, scheme up the odd trip or three – summer's here.

At the Society of Friends' Hall, 227 college St., 7.45 p.m.

SUPPER DUTIES: Don French, Colin Hoare, Keith Miller.

15th – 16th November "SAREX OROUA"

The Palmerston North City annual search and rescue exercise this year is to be held in the Western Ruahines. A team is required from the Club to take part. In past years we have been very lucky (skilful?) in finding the lost party.

Names to: Kevin Pearce, ph. 70-217.
Grade: Fit. Cost: Nil.
Depart: Police Station, 7.00 a.m. Saturday.

15th – 16th November WAIOPEHU – TE MATAWAI AREA

A weekend trip into the bush with a little top travel in the Tararuas.

Names to: Chrissie Elliot, ph. 72-334.
Grade: Medium.
Cost: \$2.50.
Depart: 6.30 a.m. Saturday.

16th November WAIOPEHU

Up to that well cut bush track to the top of Waiopehu and beyond if so inclined.

Names to: Chrissie Elliot, ph. 72-334.
Grade: According to demand.
Cost: \$2.50.
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Sunday.

22nd – 23rd November CYCLING TRIP MASTERTON TO CASTLE POINT

Enjoy a weekend of cycle touring in an area normally out of reach of Palmerston North. We will travel to (or from) Masterton either by train or van, enjoy the tar sealed road of rural Wairarapa and camp under the stars on Castle Point Beach.

Leader: Susan Cade, ph. 88-241.
Grade: Medium.
Cost: \$14.00 if transport by train or much less if by van.
Depart: 6.30 a.m. from Railway Station.

23rd November COPPERMINE CREEK

For those who would like to do a day trip come with Heather to one of her favourite spots in the Ruahines, up the beautiful Coppermine Creek and for those more enthusiastic trampers – maybe a trip to the top of Whariti.

Leader: Heather Crabb, ph. 77-668.
Grade: According to demand.
Cost: \$1.00.
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Saturday.

29th November KAPAKAPANUI

A day trip in the Tararuas behind Waikanae. There is plenty of scope for trips ranging from easy to fit.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, 73-543.
Grade: As necessary.
Cost: \$3.50.
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Saturday.

30th November KAPITI ISLAND

We have a permit for up to 12 people to visit the island which serves as a sanctuary for native birds. A track leads to the highest point of the island and one can walk to the site of an early attempt at farming.

Transport to and from the island will be by launch.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, ph. 73-543.
Grade: Easy.
Cost: \$16.50 (\$12 for launch ride and \$4.50 transport.)
Depart: 6.00 a.m. sharp Sunday morning.

12th December DINE AND DANCE

At the Steeple Restaurant, Fitzherbert Ave., 6.30 p.m. \$10.00 per head. There are 40 places booked for this evening and they will fill up fast so give your names quickly to Dianne Stanley, phone PHA 3633.

CHRISTMAS TRIP – FIT – NELSON LAKES TO LEWIS PASS

According to NZR there is no problem with ferry bookings for passengers on Boxing Day until the end of October, at which time I would like to have names and transport

arrangements finalised. Any queries, ring Roddy Henderson, 63-588.

CYCLING IN SOUTH ISLAND AT CHRISTMAS

Anyone interested in cycling down south before or after the Club's Christmas trip from 20th – 26th December inclusive and 6th – 11th January inclusive, contact Susan Cade, ph. 88-241.

27th November CLUB NIGHT

Details in next Newsletter.

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NOTICES

NEW MEMBERS/ADDITIONS TO LIST

A warm welcome to our fold is accorded to:

Robert A. Bruce, Robert's Line, R.D. 8, P.N.	Ph.	BUN 888.
Murray Patterson, 48 Pahiatua St., P.N.	"	71-477.
Trevor Brill, Aokautere, R.D. 1, P.N.	"	70-098.
Glenn Osborne, Flat 2, 1 Pharazyn St., Feilding.		

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Jenny Smith, 15 Dorset St., Patea, ph. 8537.
Chris Saunders & Family, 96 Brightwater Terrace, P.N.

AVALANCHES

Seen any lately – been in any? A study is being done on avalanches by the N.Z. Mountaincraft Safety council Avalanche Committee. It is hoped to build up a record of when and under what conditions avalanches take place. North Island and South Island.

Types of avalanches (loose snow, slab, wet snow etc.), angle of slope, slope aspect, past weather, present weather etc. All this can be useful in working out why. The Club has copies of a form put out for the purpose of recoding these avalanches that you see take place. Forms are available from Terry Crippen, phone 63-588.

DEHY MEAT ETC. ORDERS

Orders for dehydrated meat, veggies etc. are now being taken. The club gets it in bulk. Let Terry, 63-588, know.

FOR SALE

Fairy Down Polar V Tube – top quality down. Used only very briefly – in very good condition. (\$190 – present price over \$260) Phone Terry, 63-588.

MAP ORDERS

Last chance to order topographical maps before Christmas for those summer trips. NZMS 1 maps etc., bought through Club at \$1 each instead of \$1.50. Give orders to Terry, 63-588.

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PASTEVENTS

A TRIP TO NELSON LAKES – LATE AUGUST

Despite the westerly weather we enjoyed three fine days in the Travers Valley climbing Mt Travers via the Summit Creek route and not quite climbing Hopeless from Hopeless Hut because of soft overnight snow. Our plan to come out via Sunset Saddle and Angelus Hut was dashed by bad weather. However, we are keen to return to the area and complete our unfinished climbs.

Mike Davidson, Chris Saunders.

5 – 6 – 7 September CLIMBING WEEKEND MOUNT RUAPEHU

1. This account has been written in response to public demand, or at least, a demand made in public.
2. Contrary to rumour no bones were broken during the weekend, although one individual, who shall remain nameless, did sprain an ankle.

3. The weather was perfect both Saturday and Sunday.
4. We stayed in the Massey Hut.
5. A considerable amount of skiing was done, some of it at high standard and some of it independent of tows and other aids.
6. Ascents were made by various routes of various degrees of difficulty of various peaks, including Taurangi and Girdlestone, by various individuals.
7. Those taking part on this successful and enjoyable weekend were: Terry Crippen, Don French, Debbie Hunt, Roddy Henderson, Keith Pollock, Phil Beech, Trevor "Long John" Bissell, Dianne Stanley, Richard ?, Stephen Moore, Marty Robbins, Owen Gurr, Lucy Davies, Andrew ?, Allan Robins, Peter Darragh and Kevin Pearce.

13th – 14th September AVALANCHE FLATS

We started the trip in a stylish fashion, travelling to the upper Mangahao Dam in Trevor's van. The water level in the dam was very high as a result of the heavy rain in the previous week and we soon discovered that the track was very muddy!

The weather was fine when we set out but by the time we reached Harris Creek Hut it was raining heavily again. Harris Creek rose quickly with the rain and soon became impassable, forcing us to stay at the hut for the rest of the day. We were joined by two other trampers from Wellington and spent the long rainy afternoon watching the river rise, reading the New Testament, playing "I Spy" (with cryptic clues) and spotting rats.

The rain stopped that night and by morning the rivers had dropped sufficiently to allow us to walk up river for a couple of hours. The sun even shone on us briefly while we ate our lunch. We spent a pleasant few hours walking back down the river.

We were: Cheryl Sporry, Murry Patterson, Trevor Brill, Peter McArdle, Frank van Rooden and Carol Cullen.

13th – 21st September NELSON LAKES

Terry Crippen, Stu Grey and Eric van Toor headed up the Travers for a week's climbing.

Three days were spent at Cupolla Hut, with two attempts on Cupolla. The first was abandoned when an avalanche stopped at our feet, the second was successful although we were deprived of the view we would have had in the previous day's fine weather.

We then headed up valley to spend three days at Upper Travers Hut. An attempt on Kahu failed, despite an eleven hour day and our forgetting about lunch, due to our taking a wrong turning and climbing the wrong knob. The other two days had snow and as it snowed again on Friday we headed home.

25th September CLUB NIGHT

Barry Scott, who spent some time working in Peru in 1976, talked about his experiences while tramping and climbing in the region, illustrating his talk with slides which included the development of hospitals and schools by Edmund Hillary and his band of workers. The audience's attention was held throughout by the impressiveness of the slides and the easy conversational tone of the speaker. Our thanks for a very informative evening are accorded to Barry.

27th – 28th September SAWTOOTH RIDGE

We arrived at Howletts in good weather and in good time for lunch.

"Look – a snowflake." Oh, well, you're allowed the odd slack F.E. trip once in a while. After replenishing our bodies with food and sleep, we had tea and went to sleep again.

Actually, quite a lot of snow fell that night and it continued to snow on Sunday.

After Sawtooth Ridge we dropped onto Black Ridge and down Rosvall's Track, stopping at Tarn Biv for lunch.

The party were Carol Cullen, Peter Wiles, Kevin Pearce and Eric van Toor.

3rd – 5th October RUAPEHU – WHAKAPAPA

Nine of us headed up to the NZAC Ruapehu hut late on Friday night with a good clear sky above, but some bad weather coming. The first lot were in the pit and asleep before the last of us (no Names mentioned) arrived. Saturday morning had brought the bad weather proper so a spell of pit bashing was indulged in.

Finally, toilet needs and madness got all but one of us out into the weather. Big Peter continued pit bashing. Kevin, Don, small peter, Trev, and Philip² headed over to the Pinnacles for various white-out climbs. Terry and Rod toured around on skis and skins learning the art of rapid stopping (falling over) with very poor visibility, before opting for some down hill skiing. Enough energy was spent to enable some high class eating and drinking on Saturday night with the company of peoples from Auckland, Wellington and elsewhere.

Sunday was again normal (i.e. white out) so Kevin and Trev headed off up the top ascending (theoretically pare and Te Heu Heu.) Philip² indulged in lunatic activities of rapidly gravitating down the slope, out of control, on a circular sledge. Rod held the fort and did the pit bashing for the day.

After the usual series of brews (cup size) we headed down. Rod and Terry, on skis, taking at least twice as long as the rest who walked down. Skiing with packs on is a bit like hard work. After communally spending nearly \$200 at Roy Tuner's we motored on home.

We were: Rod McKenzie, Philip² Beech + Budding, Kevin Pearce, Trevor Bissell, Peter Darragh + Wiles, Don French and Terry Crippen.
(P.S. anybody lost a pair of long johns from this trip? Terry's got them).

THE QUEST FOR THE KING'S DAUGHTER – PART II

Readers of this prestigious periodical may recall a fairy story published July, 1979, which described an attempt by the eminent Nic Bishop and his cohort's to find Oriwa, the beautiful daughter of the King of the Western Tararuas. The quest failed due to witchcraft and evil forces and Nic fled south to Christchurch. He is purported to be scouring the Southern Alps in the vain hope of finding the fair Oriwa. Meanwhile a second expedition has ventured into the forbidden mountains of the Western Tararuas. Here is an expurgated version of their ordeal.

Once upon a time not long ago (11 – 12 October, 1980) there were six knights called Sir Kevin the Bold, Sir Trevor the Gallant, Sir Michael the Fearless, Sir Paul the Brave, Sir Peter the Courageous and Sir Frank the Valiant. This noble band travelled by trusty steed to the end of the North Manakau Road and set off into the enchanted forest. Very soon they came under a powerful spell. The needle of Sir Trevor's compass started to point in devious directions. 'Hold fast!' cried Sir Kevin, "There are evil forces about. I fear we are lost!" The spell bound Sir Trevor had led the party high above their pass to the Waitewaewae River. Fortunately Sir Kevin had the magic gnome's compass that he had found during the previous Oriwa Quest. With its aid the company found their way to the river. However, their problems were just beginning.

A short way down the river all progress was barred by a deep dark pool full of cold water and doubtless infested with sharks, crocodiles and piranha. Undaunted, Sir Michael stepped forth.

“I shall lead,” cried he and lead he did by a secret way on tiny ledges. This greatly angered the trolls and they struck back precipitating Sir Frank the Valiant into the abyss. Only his lightning reflexes and knightly virtue saved him. He was out of the water so fast that he barely got wet.

On down the river went the band until they came to the mighty waters of the Otaki. Legend had it that the King’s summer palace stood on its banks. But, alas, there was no palace, only Waitewaewae hut. Undismayed the company made camp but found a spell had been cast on their tent fly. It had shrunk from a six-knight size to a four-knight size! During the night a light but exceptionally wet rain fell. Fortunately the Bold and the Brave guarded the ends of the fly and their warm personalities kept off the noxious fuid.

Sunday dawned after a black night and the fellowship of knights set off into the darkest and deepest recesses of the Forest in their search for the King’s daughter. They traversed a long untracked ridge to the mighty peak of Mick. A wicked witch had cast a spell on a bush lawyer vine. When the Gallant Sir Trevor pricked his finger on one of the barbs he broke out into a hideous welt of freely bleeding cuts and scratches. Near Mick the wreckage of a Ventura bomber was found, further evidence of the dark things living in the woods and the evil vapours they use to conceal the mountains.

Finally after many hours of weary travel the company arrived back at their steed Oriwaless, disappointed but not disheartened. “somewhere in the Tararuas there is a golden castle with rubber mattresses and perpetual sunshine and we shall find it, someday,” spake the band in unison.

Those taking part were Kevin Pearce, Trevor Bissell, Mike Freeman, Paul Taylor, Peter McArdle and Frank van Rooden.

(Is it possible that there is an unexpurgated version, [Heaven help us] and will it someday be told – perhaps behind closed doors? Ed.)

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AIR CRASHES IN THE TARARUA FOREST PARK

Date	Location	Grid Ref. (NZMS1)	Aircraft
14/ 1/42	North King	950793	Oxford (2 killed)
28/ 2/46	Mick	776824	Ventura (4 “)
23/ 1/49	Maungahuka	849674	Tiger Moth (0)
5/ 7/52	Makakahi	099946	Oxford (1)
17/ 2/55	Shingle Slip Knob	906763	Devon (2)
12/12/65	Central Tararuas	?	Skylark Glider (0)

Source: R.A. Kerr “A Chronology of the Tararua and Rimutaka Ranges” Kerr, Wellington, 1977.

Please advise the editor of any errors, additions or additional information.

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Is there anything you want to get off your chest? Write about it in a letter to the Editor.

Crocodiles and piranha in the Tararuas? Well, maybe – but sharks, SHARKS??? I ask you