



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

December 1991 Edition

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE FOODTOWN CAR PARK IN FERGUSSON STREET. IF YOU WANT TO GO ON A TRIP, PLEASE ADVISE THE LEADER AT LEAST THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OR WEEKEND TRIP, CONTACT THE LEADER OF THE SCHEDULED TRIP.

Members are reminded that a charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip, the amount depending on the distance traveled and vehicles used. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

Please sign your name in the visitors book. There is a door fee of 30c which includes supper.

The PNTMC committee meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 436 College Street. Meetings are held for all club (and intending) members on the last Thursday of each month and the Thursday two weeks prior to that evening. The venue is the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North, at 7:45 pm.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

DECEMBER 12 Club Evening: Dave Barker will be talking about mountaineering in Africa.

TRIP LIST

DECEMBER 8 XMAS LUNCHEON / DINNER RANGI (E) Organizer: Tony Gates Ph 357-0990.

DECEMBER 8 RANGI HUT (E) Leader Doug Strachan Ph 3575732

DECEMBER 12 Club Evening

DECEMBER 14/15 COLENZO CROSSING RUAHINES (M/F) Leader: Mick Leyland Ph 3583183

DECEMBER 15 OTAKI FORKS TARARUAS (E) Leader: Kevin Pearce Ph 3570217

LAKE WAIKAREMOANA (OPEN) Contact Tony Gates Ph 3570990
(more details below.)

EDITORIAL

November was an active month for P.N.T.M.C. We participated in trips for all grades of trampers - the most popular being relatively easy tramps into the local hills. Weather on our trips varied from both extremes, from winter blizzards and skiing at Rangi, to blistering sun-burnish days on the tops. Most of us did get out and about to enjoy the spring. One member even went tramping up Takapari Road in a 4 W D, is that cheating or what!.

Last month, we listened to Peter Stockdale talking about activities in The Rockies, and admired his lovely pickies of the scenery. Then there was the Christmas dinner, a rather large feed with plenty of leftovers. More exciting club evenings next year.

Talking of next year, there is a new trip card to be printed at the same time as this newsletter. It covers tramps and club activities until winter 1992, so will give you faithful members a few things to put in your diaries. Support it please, and support the leaders.

Well, enjoy this bumper edition of the monthly newsletter, and have a Merry Christmas. Happy tramping.

Christmas Trip: Lake Waikaremoana

Departure date depends on when people can get off work etc. We will probably camp beside the cars for the first night, then walk from the Hoporuahine (north east corner) around part of the lake. We will stick to the tracks, and hopefully explore some of the big bush up there. There are no open tops, but a few grassy river flats and clearings. It will not be a strenuous tramp; it is graded as EASY, but participants will require some equipment of their own and some experience (preferably also some "practice tramps" if necessary). Contact Tony.

NOTICES

New Members:

The club would like to welcome and introduce a new member to the fold:

Llew Pritchard
10 Gainsborough Grove
Palmerston North
Phone 358-2217

Buy, Sell or Swap

Pot Belly Stove or similar wood burning stove wanted. Give Marcel a ring. (Pity really - I took one to the dump a few years ago - ed.)

Work Wanted

Carpenter seeks work; New Homes, Alterations, Additions, Fences or concrete work.
Free quotes, reasonable rates: Phone Mike Johns 355-2162.

Holiday Contacts

If you are interested in a casual trip or wish to contact a club official over the holiday period contact Brad from Christmas to 3rd Jan, then Tony from 5th Jan onwards.

Trip Wellington Anniversary Weekend Jan 18-20th

There will be a weekend trip with the Manawatu Branch of Forest and Bird to the Kaweka area. The weekend will be based at Kuripapango, on the Napier-Taupo road. Day trips will explore adjacent parts of the Kaweka Range. Easy / medium, departs Friday pm. 17th Jan. Contact Arthur or Lis Todd, 323-6246 (pm).

BOOK REVIEW

"TRAMPING IN NORTH ISLAND FOREST PARKS"

By Euan and Jennie Nicol (1991, Reed)
(Companion to Jo Wright's "Tramping in South Island Forest Parks")

At last this long awaited book has hit the shops, and just in time for the Christmas shopping list too (price, a little under \$30.00) It is a handy medium size, so it will suit both your book shelf, coffee table (bed-side?), and the top pocket of your pack. It is as comprehensive a field guide and reference text that its 288 pages permits.

Glancing at the chapters on the hills we of P.N.T.M.C. frequent, I see most, but by no means all of our popular spots mentioned. The Oroua Valley is omitted. (But the authors could not tramp everywhere.) This book does, however, go beyond its predecessors, because it specialises in only the Forest Parks, and details as best as possible their most popular tramps. There are a dozen or so introductory and appendix pages, then a chapter on each of the fourteen Forest (now Conservation) Parks. Rudimentary maps are of course provided, and the usual selection of interesting (black and white) photos. Writing is informative and brief, providing introductions to each of the areas, good route guide stuff, and useful information.

Flora is usually mentioned, and I particularly liked the author's description of leatherwood beside Takapari Road. It is "very handsome" and "particularly attractive in winter after a fresh snowfall"! (Is that true? A case of pearls before swine I guess.) The authors obviously enjoy a great deal the beauty of this species, and other native flora. Plant names used are the common (Maori) ones, with Latin names provided for some. Fauna is mentioned where it may be noticeable, and there is a definite geological emphasis. (How did Coppermine Creek get its name?)

A book worthy of a good read, for experienced trampers and beginners alike.

(This is very much a bumper edition folks - so thus far you have only just started. So if you haven't the stamina at this stage to go all the way, it might be a good idea for a refuelling stop at this point.)

TRIP REPORTS

We seem to have a mountain of trip reports this issue - keep up the good work folks!

PURITY - WATERFALL November 9-10 - by Llew Prichard

I had not met Mick Leyland before, but somehow he convinced me to join this trip with a 4.20 am start the next day and later on to write up this report. (I must be getting soft in the head?) However, I made it on time, picked up Mick (THE CON.) , and the rest of the team, whence we headed for Purity car park.

The farmland climb lived up to its reputation - by the time we reached the bush edge most of us had a more appropriate name for it. The tops ahead were covered in heavy cloud. It didn't seem long before we were trudging through snow, strong winds, with 10 ft visibility. I kept a close eye on the trumper up front who appeared to know what to do with a compass and map. We located Wooden Peg, then navigated our way to Iron Peg.

I was surprised to find fresh ski tracks along the top ridge and wondered who would be crazy enough to carry skis way up here. The rest of the team seemed to know and the words "AWESOME SKIING" kept popping up. From Iron Peg, we ducked over the side and ploughed our way down shear snow covered faces and gullies 'till we reached Iron Peg Creek. We must have dropped 300 m in a matter of minutes, skiing on boots, bums and face down. Apart from a mean looking crevasse half way down, it was a real buzz and a quick trip.

Tricia reckoned it was faster on a bare rump but it looked a painful way to prove it. Another clown said "... that was great, let's climb back up and do it again".

We were below the clouds now leaving us a comfortable scenic trip down Iron Peg Creek, up the Kawhatau to Waterfall Hut. (Time approx. 5 hours.) At the hut we met up with Tony Gates, Paul Scheyvens and David Hodges. They had tramped over from Purity Hut earlier that morning.

The weather was lousy, cold, windy and damp. We prayed for rain, down it came, the rivers rose accordingly. I imagined being trapped for a day or so. I was assured we would have no trouble finding ourselves as 5 out of the 8 belong to search and rescue. It cleared later, so some ventured out to explore or hunt.

After a well prepared banquet, Mick was kicked out and made to flycamp about 20 m away. He must have a real mean hooter to be punished like that.

On Sunday we were up at a more respectable hour and ready to face the elements. Tony and Paul had left at daybreak hoping to bag a deer on the way out. The route out was via Pinnacle Creek. The weather had not improved, low cloud, strong winds and a shower of sleet - as we prepared to leave. I was not looking forward to it.

The last 1/3 of Pinnacle Creek was steep and a fair grunt, but as luck would have it, as we reached the saddle the clouds lifted momentarily leaving us with some great views and just how steep this area was. The tops had iced over leaving us with something else to think about as we crossed a nasty little spur and climbed

back into the clouds towards Iron Peg. This was soon forgotten as we cruised back down to Purity Hut for a well earned coffee break. (Ever tried Mick's coffee, ever heard of a 2/1 ratio, well that's the way he likes it.) I tried 1 tablespoon full and I thought my teeth would fallout! Sorry, Mick but your coffee is real crap! (This is a real straight shooter for sure. I am only typing what's in front of me. Do we need liability insurance for statements like this? ed.)

This was my first serious tramp with the Club and I found it fairly tough, a bit of a worry and a new experience, but like the rest of the team thoroughly enjoyed it.

THANKS MICK - GREAT TRIP!

Team: Mick Leyland (Leader) , Tricia Eder, Brian Lawrence, Gavin ?, Llew Prichard

A TALE OF TWO TRAMPS by all the trampers involved

Tramping the central Ruahines is a tradition of PNTMC. We always have trips there, to the lovely huts, forests, rivers, and tussock tops. Here is a tale of two good November tramps into the "traditional" spots of Waterfall and Daphne Huts. (Please don't mention the leatherwood and bad weather).

TRAMP ONE THE STORM

We fair sprinted up to Purity Hut for the first evening. Then it was over Wooden and Iron Peg in doubtful conditions the next day, pausing only to check map and compass, and to ski for a couple of minutes (Paul's first ski ever, ha ha). Heaps of snow about, even avalanche debris down Iron Peg Creek, so we really appreciated the easy river tramping en route to Waterfall Hut. Lots more PNTMC types arrived. We arranged a large fire and a very large dinner, with the regulation strong coffee. Someone said it was raining like Fiordland. Nevertheless some people insisted on an afternoon tramp, should I say swim. We thought Brian must have some mountain goat blood in him, he was pretty finely balanced on those goat trails bypassing the gorge. Rough country.

On Sunday, we were up at first light to look for deer, and to tramp over Pinnacle Creek to the legendary "Pourangaki". What disgusting weather. A howling, snow laden southerly pounded us as we desperately scampered across the very exposed tops. No time or inclination for hunting or skiing, the ski equipment (left on top) was caked with ice. Everything was frozen except us! Luckily, the mist cleared momentarily when we needed it too, luckily there was also a good fire at Purity Hut to thaw us out. We got home for lunch.

Trampers were; Paul Scheyvens, Tony Gates, and Dave Hodges

TRAMP TWO SAWTOOTH RIDGE

The next weekend gave us the weather we deserved, i.e. searing hot sunshine and crystal clear skies. We left P N late as usual, and squeezed Steve into the car at Woodville. No carsickness. Someone said it wasn't their idea of a good time, walking up steep farmland, heart pounding, sweating. But the view made it worthwhile, and the track through the bush was enjoyable. The only problem was walking up the Tukituki in the dark with a weak torch. It is only a few minutes tramp in the river bed to get to the magnificent Daphne hut, but the river was slightly flooded, freezing cold, and we needed to cross it half a dozen times. We were rather rudely awoken at midnight by two ill equipped hunters who were spotlighting for possums and deer. They had no food, no sleeping bags, and wet clothes! And they didn't ask for any (we of course would have donated a few crumbs of stale bread, weak tea, and some dirty clothes).

Saturday for some was spent basking in the sun, reading, daydreaming, eating and generally pottering about. So much for fit trips. Tony was up and away by 5.30, hoping to meet Steve and Dave on Tiraha at 11.00 or thereabouts. The Tikitiki gorge consumed some three hours of precious tramping time to cover a distance one would cover in half an hour on a track. There are easy river flats above the gorge, but a little shrubby plant growing in profusion nearby (just below the tussock) that won't let you through without a fight. Cursed stuff, that leatherwood. Dave and Steve were spied on with the aid of binoculars on Tiraha at the pre-arranged time, they had slept in and then had a rapid tramp up to Howletts and Tiraha. But where was Tony? Half a km downhill, but over an hour of tough tramping behind them. I told you that leatherwood was cursed. And remember, it was a hot sunny day too. The tops must have looked VERY inviting as Steve and Dave nonchalantly strolled north along Sawtooth Ridge. Tony, somewhat depleted of skin and energy, could but watch them, then retreat the easy way, via Howlett Hut. Steve plugged steps through the sometimes deep snow, and Dave followed a fair way behind. Bit of a nightmare really on Sawtooth Ridge, as there were several places where one false step would send a person plunging to the leatherwood. Snow made things rather slippery. But the ridge took only an hour to tramp, then it was only a couple of hours of tired but enjoyable tramping down Black Ridge to Daphne Hut. Tarn Biv is rather primitive. A hot day, and we got a bit sunburnt. Dinner was a Tony special, a good gluey pot of "Stodge"

Sunday was a sun(ny) day. We all went for an easy stroll up Daphne Stream, a delightful spot with grassy river flats and lots of open country. It was a lazy morning waiting for the day trippers, who didn't appear, so we ambled out. (We met Arthur, Lis, and their mob en route). We really enjoyed that post - tramp ice cream at Norsewood.

Trampers were; Yvonne van der Does, Tony Gates , Dave Hodges and Steve Glasgow

(And now especially for our European members)

BUSHCRAFT WEEKEND - ODER "WIE UBERLEBE ICH NEUSEELAND IN URWALD"

Donnerstag, Kontaktaufnahme, Sonntag erster Wanderausflug mit dem PNTMC und heute eine Woche später mit Tony unterwegs die Geheimnisse des Waldes erfahren. Was sollte mich als Anfänger erwarten? So gut es ging packte ich meinen Rucksack, Kleidung, Schlafsack und Somatite und reichlich zu essen. Auf unserem Weg in die Berge sah das Wetter nicht viel versprechend aus. Regen, Sturm oder doch war da nicht ein blauer Fetzen am Himmel? Es war nicht! Am Parkplatz erste Lektion: wie packe ich meinen Rucksack, 4 Liter Flüssigkeit viel zu viel. Es wurde hier und da gekürzt und dann ging's los! Mit Rucksack und Stock stolperte ich so durch den Wald, war endlich froh die Hütte zu erreichen. Und oase schlafen warten auf besseres Wetter zu viel Wind, zu viel Regen. Das Rauschen des Flusses, das Prasseln des Regens, das Knacken des Feuers und das Furzen des Auführers werden mir gut in Erinnerung bleiben!
(Please forgive the typing errors -ed.)

or for those whose Deutsch is a bit rusty.

BUSHCRAFT WEEKEND, OR HOW TO SURVIVE IN THE N. Z. JUNGLE

Thursday, first contact, Sunday, first tramp tour with PNTMC, and today, one week later, on tour with Tony to discover the secrets of the forest. What have I as a beginner to expect? As good as I could, I packed my rucksack, clothes, sleeping bag and mattress, and plenty of food. On our way into the weather was not good. Rain, storm, or was there a blue spot in the sky? No it wasn't. At the parking place the first lecture lesson, how to pack a rucksack. Four litres of liquid, too much, Tony cut back and there we go. With a rucksack and a stick I stumbled through the forest and I was glad when we reached the hut. And? have a break, sleeping and waiting for better weather. Too much wind, too much rain. The rush of the water, the crackle of the rain the crackle of the fire, and the fart of the leader I will keep in my mind.

NELSON LAKES 16 - 19 November - by Peter Wiles

Barry had suggested a trip to the South Island a month or so ago. After some preliminary planning, on Friday evening we decided to leave in the morning for Nelson Lakes. The plan was to try to get on the 8.00 am ferry. We aimed to leave PN shortly after 5 am. We were just heading out of town when I suddenly figured I had left my snow goggles behind - quick dash back home and sure enough there they were in the front room.

We managed to catch the boat okay and reached St Arnaud around 1 pm. We had a look for the water taxi proprietor but there was no one at home so rather than waste even more time we cut our losses and walked around the lake. It was an excellent day and we were quite surprised to see that the snow was well down into the bush in many places. We reached the Lake Head Hut shortly after 4 pm. This necessitated another major decision, where were we going to spend the night? We decided to try to reach John Tait Hut before dark - the track signpost stated 5 hours. We decided to go for it even though it was now after 5.00 pm. We reached the hut about 8.30 pm. The track up the Travers Valley was excellent - the further I went the more impressed I was with the marvellous bush. We felt that we had been through a meat tenderiser (especially feet) by the time we arrived at the hut.

Next morning, after looking at my watch shortly after 6 am, I re-awoke to find the time was 7.30 am. The day looked excellent again but we knew from the 5-day forecast that later on a front was due. Our original plan was to go up to Upper Travers Hut and the following day to try climbing Mt Travers. Over breakfast, Barry suddenly changed all that when he suggested we climb Travers from John Tait. My mind went into overdrive - its nearly 8.30 - we are at about 2,700 ft and the summit is nearly 7,700 ft - 5,000 ft minimum of height gain, it's nearly 8.30, route up Summit Creek - otherwise nothing known about it, I haven't recovered from yesterday's haul, it's nearly 8.30 - we have 12 hours of daylight. I agreed - we go for it.

The first half hour was up the main Travers Valley track. When we reached the Summit Creek junction we were not sure which side to go up. Fortunately it did not matter as the bush is so open and easy to get through. After another 3/4 of an hour we began to emerge from the bush into the open grassland. There were patches of snow everywhere. Where was the summit? Not too sure but the map suggests over to the left somewhere. That looks like we will have to climb that huge snow couloir up there? How stable is all that snow? What happens if an avalanche comes down as we are going up? I decided to change the whole scenario. I

asked Barry if he thought it might be better climbing up the grass and rock onto the north ridge? He agreed. We found the grind hard going. The ridge crest looked much nearer than it in fact turned out to be. At about 1,900 m and about 11 am-ish we got onto the ridge. To the northwest Mt Cupola looked most impressive - a superb conical peak of rock and snow towering above an adjacent ridge crest.

The ridge in front of us looked fairly straight forward – easy scrambling up a series of steps interspersed with sections of snow. Even so we made slow progress or so it seemed - we just did not seem to gain any height relative to Cupola (about 100 m lower than Travers). We still had the big unknown - to locate the summit of Travers.

In a couple of places our ridge was rather narrow and comprised of blocks of rock the size of bathtubs. Here and there, there was no way around them. Instead, in a sort of bear-hug fashion we grovelled over the top of them - to the Travers Valley side there seemed to be a drop of the best part of 500 m, to the Summit Creek side things were a bit tamer but a fall was not to be contemplated; even so we did not belay. Going back might have been another storey.

After another hour and a half we had some lunch and then pressed on. Shortly afterwards we came to the top of a major rise on the ridge where the situation became a whole lot clearer. The ridge suddenly became snowy, narrow and gently descended before running out into the middle of a 200 m high steepish snow face on Travers itself. This time there was no way of avoiding steep and possibly dodgy snow.

We found the face quite good going although rather tiring for the leader to plug steps into. We used our hammers as second iceaxes for additional stability.

Once we got to the top of the face, we were on yet another ridge. At last we were above the summit of Cupola. We climbed another 20 or 30 m and there was the summit trig - still further away than we expected but at least the news was good - we were almost level with it and no sastrugi ice. (Totally different snow conditions from the North Island.) Shortly after 2.15 we were there. Even though the day was still reasonably good (little wind), we did not waste much time, after a photo or two, before descending.

We back peddled down the face, re-routing a section which would have required a belay, into a snow basin and at its edge the start of the snow gully. After cramponing, we plunged down for nearly 500 m to the grass. After a rest, we walked on down Summit Creek, this time taking the true right side through the bush. We reached the hut shortly after 6 pm and started work on relieving two massive thirsts.

Soon heaps of people started arriving - quite full even with at least 15 people there that night. The styles could not have been more different comparing the antics of a group of 7 high school students and a group of 4 Austrians.

We were in no hurry to get up in the morning. Once almost everyone had gone we gradually got sorted out and left the hut at about 11 am in cloudy conditions but no rain. The trip down the valley was a little less pressured than the journey up. We were somewhat in preservation mode - Barry with blisters in profusion and me up for a new toenail or two. By mid-afternoon we were back at Lake Head Hut. There was no one around until we thought we were going to be inundated by another party of about 10 high school students, but even though it was raining now, they left to camp over on the other side of the valley.

Next morning we walked around the lake to St Arnaud and drove back to eventually get on the 4.00 pm ferry.

Team: Barry Scott and Peter Wiles.

MT EGMONT - 2/3 November by Mike Johns

As we headed off bright and early on the Saturday morning, our destination Mt Egmont, the weather steadily got worse. As the rain came down, it looked more like we had got a bad weekend for it. The stopped at Hawera, and then we drove through the clouds to a beautiful Taranaki day - The Mountain standing tall.

We departed North Egmont in fine sunny weather on route to Pouakai Hut. We were heading via the round the mountain track (RMT) to Holly Hut, then across the swamp, climbing up the Puakai Ranges and along to the hut. We had a lunch break, at Holly Hut, and took advantage of the sun to start the summer tanning programme. The grunt up the ranges was made pleasant by a slight breeze that had come up. We stopped at the plateau and awaited some high cloud to move along so that a photo could be taken of the mountain - alas it did not. The hut was readied and preparations were made for the night ahead - the fire lit, tea cooked and eaten and the view admired.

During the night the weather took a turn for the worse – cold southerlies and rain greeted us for the walk out along the tops. We headed off into the adverse conditions, fighting the wind, when we grovelled up

Henery Peak, and dropped all the way down to Kaiuauai Hut for lunch. From here it was no more than a stroll up some tourist tracks to be reunited with our car at North Egmont.

In all a great weekend and not to have been missed.
We were Mike Johns and Tricia Eder.

SAR 1 (ON TOKA) - by Brad Owen

Brooke, Thomas and I left the Sixtus Lodge road end about 9.00 am on 13 October. Our Intention was to climb Toka and meet up at the trig with the other PNTMC group that was traversing the range from Tunipo. The weather was reasonable but snow was visible on the tussock below the low cloud. We made fair progress and had lunch in the leatherwood and reached the main range about 12.30 pm. We were in cloud, it was windy and there was snow on the ground. We got to within sight of the trig, about 100-150 metres away. The children were well equipped but because of the conditions I asked them to stay in a sheltered position while I went to the trig. The other group was not here and I could not see them through the reducing brief clear spells. I returned along the ridge which was a mistake as Brooke and Thomas, fed up with waiting in unpleasant conditions, followed my tracks to the trig (I found their tracks later). I began my search for them and at one stage we made voice contact, but conditions were deteriorating and I never was able to make visual contact. They found a sheltered spot on the track close to the Knights Track turn-off. This was within my search area and I found evidence of many more footprints than we made on the way up. I decided not to chase back down Knights Track in case when I caught up with the group Brooke and Thomas were not with them - this was probably about 4.00 pm. I continued searching but began to tire and the conditions worsened. At 6.00 pm, I realised I might not be strong enough to return down Knights Track on the exposed side of Toka. I had never been to Leon Kinvig Hut but was able to find and follow the track on the leeward side. It was dark when I got to the hut and quite cold (it snowed that night). I had a bivy bag and enough clothing and food to be reasonably comfortable.

In the morning I was in a quandary as to what action to take. I had a suspicion that the children were safe but no certainty. I expected search teams to come over the top or up the Pohangina for a hut check. I was confident of being able to return over Toka but if I did this and a team was coming up the river then I would not make early contact and I was urgently needing information regarding Brooke and Thomas. Also tramping SAR lore is that when safety is reached – stay put - so I stayed, using my time to build a miserably, slow burning fire. I was picked up by Rick Lucas and his helicopter about 3.30 pm.

From this episode, I have learnt that it is unreasonable to expect children to stay in one spot. Time drags and poor conditions can change to totally unacceptable. How to deal with this sort of situation? Maybe ensure that there are at least two adults in the group if adverse conditions are likely. I also believe that in searches, helicopters are a very useful tool but they have not removed the primary importance of teams on the ground.

STATUS REPORT ON SAR IN GENERAL

In the past the Club has been able to provide search controllers, advisers and several search teams whenever a search was mounted. Because we are a small club and any slight reduction in overall numbers, and especially of those capable of providing an input into SAR, have a considerable effect. The club is now trying to build up its ability to respond effectively.

In this district, personnel for a search comes from the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club, the Deerstalkers, PNTMC and sometimes MUAC. Our involvement, despite our size, is considerable. At short notice we are able to provide two or three teams and have three members on the Manawatu SAR Committee. The club committee is investigating our ability to provide advisers and controllers as well as additional ground party team members.

SAREX 91 (OPERATION GALAWAY) - by Peter Wiles

This year's exercise was based in and around the Coppermine Creek catchment. The field control centre was located at a convenient farm a few kilometres from the Coppermine road end. After some instruction sessions, we had lunch and then the team leaders were briefed - "Operation Galaway" was underway. We were given our radio and then were driven, along with a Bush TC party, by minibus up to Wharite Peak. Conditions were miserable up here - howling wind and cloud.

After checking our radio again, we were off long the track. At the track junction we reported in and then continued along the ridge top. The track rapidly degenerated into a push through the scrub. At our next call in point (nearly 5.45 pm), we wanted advise on where we were going to spend the night. Our radio proved to be unreliable with base contact. We used another group as a relay. This all took heaps of time. It was nearly 6.30 pm before we managed to get things sorted out. Most of the party (11 of us) were rather cold and frustrated at this stage. We headed down into the Coppermine Creek catchment to find a place to camp. Eventually we

found a good spot in the bush on a platform above the creek. Shortly after 11 pm, some heavy rain fell, but after a few adjustments of the tent by Mike, we returned to sleep.

In the morning, we were given new directions - to head up through the bush to check a grid reference on a ridge. On the way, our party used a different route from the Bush group. They ended up on the ridge a couple of hundred metres further along from us and found the missing party. After much confusion, with radio and the two teams being in slightly different locations, we received our next instruction to proceed out to the road.

As we reached the road, the van arrived to pick us up. After a substantial lunch provided by the tireless Salvation Army team, there was a debrief and time to have a drink or two. In all there were 10 field teams, plus at least a dozen people organizing the base station.

Team were: Tricia Eder, Mike Johns, Dave Hodges, Paul Scheyvens, Pauline Coy and Peter Wiles.

SAR 2 (A WALK FROM RANGI TO ALMOST IRON GATES) - 2 November by Trevor (Gortex) Meyle

I have come to realise why the great explorers of the world have always been fellas, 'cause if a sheila has any input into it she gets the fella into trouble. On the Friday night (2 Nov.), a fella and a women popped into the mid-Ruahines for what was going to be a quiet weekend by themselves - but it didn't really work out that way. We spent the night at Rangī and when the day dawned it was a bit on the cool side with a touch of rain around the tops. However, being from the PNTMC and not the other one, it was a quick feed of trendy lefty stuff, a note of intentions into the hut log and then packs on and away.

The route up the ridge to the drop over point had the clouds around our ears and still a bit of old snow (still hadn't decided to go to the old snow resthome). We met up with a hunter who had decided to bin it for the time being. The wander down the spur into Triangle had a few moments; it would have been O.K. in the dry, but the wet had made the clay a bit on the slippery side and its amazing what language a Pommy scarf dragger knows. The views around this area are quite good. We could easily spend a few years up there pottering around. As this trip was a "take it easy" one, and the weather, although not overly wet was definitely not tropical, we decided to take it easy and not rush down to Iron Gates. In fact after a bit of a big lunch and a bit of a lay down, it was too late to move off. No biggie as it will take us 3 hours to Iron Gates and another couple out to the car - piece of mimmey.

Sunday morning showed the stream out the front was a tad high and after we had slid around the bend and dropped down onto the river, we noticed the interesting patterns the pressure waves were making and also the sharpness of the way the spurs dropped into the river. The first 500 m had taken 30 minutes and we spent only 5 minutes on the bank. The rest of the time was spent cross graining. The novelty had worn off when 3 hours later we arrived at the track - great only 2,000 m from Triangle! Head down and bum up and into Iron Gates for lunch. Wrong!

I decided that to be standing on the western side of the Oroua River (with the Iron Gate Hut across and down a couple of hundred metres) is not the ideal time to realise the rivers up this way can rise high and fast. It took about 2 seconds to realise the folly of jumping in and having a bit of a swim. I pitched the tent, had a brew, abused the shealia, and generally took stock of what options were open.

As we saw it we had two:

- a.) Move back up the track to the ridge that runs up to Mangahuia and from there hump it back down to Rangī.
- b.) Stay where we were and wait to see what happens.

By 1900 hrs, the river had dropped a bit, and the idea was wait and see what Monday brought.

Monday brought rain and the river level up, approx. 30 inches and that beautiful noise of rocks going for wee walks down the "stream" behind us. Option A was out of commission as we were good and trapped. So, it was be happy with the half a peanut butter sandwich and a whole Strepsil for lunch and wait.

Tuesday and the helicopter arrived and we all went back to the Police Field HQ, had a brew and a bit of a chat with the head bloke. Everybody was very decent about the whole thing and assured us we had done all the right things.

Using the old 20/20 vision that hindsight gives you; a couple of things might have been done differently if the time was placed in rewind mode.

- a.) The intentions (need to be) placed in the book at the start of the track, not just in the actual huts.
 - b.) Looking back at the river around Triangle, a "D" could have been made there that the crossing over to Iron Gates was not on.
- (You have to remember our car was Heritage way.)

We were not in any danger at any stage, had a fly and warm dry gears, a load of food, still it's not an experience that I am in a hurry to repeat especially the embarrassment of walking from the helicopter to the wool shed with Mick and Trish looking at you, and everybody being so nice and understanding. In the same breath its a good warm feeling when you realise that there are people who don't think twice about coming out if others get themselves into trouble. To them thanks a lot.

Pauline Coy and Trevor Meyle

Perfect Instant Puddings for the Tramping (or Home) Menu

Prepare the milk in the usual way, if necessary. Pour the contents of the instant pudding packet into an empty bowl. Add a few spoonfuls of milk and mix into a paste with a spoon or fork (I tend to use a spoon). After thoroughly mixing, add a little more milk and thoroughly mix. Repeat this process adding increasing amounts of milk until finally the remainder of the milk can be added. Complete the mixing, lick the spoon or fork and put the bowl of instant pud aside to set. Be grateful that you do not require a beater and don't have the hassle of having to clean it.

STOP PRESS: Wanted to buy: Wet weather coat -parka or anorak, Phone Mary Anne 359-1999.

Have a good holiday and best wishes for 1992. ed.

CLUB NIGHT	
30	Barbecue Tricia Eder's place BYO supplies etc
<u>January</u>	
13	Tony Gates Skiing etc. in Argentina and other locations.
27	Kulu Expedition: Don French et. al. will be giving a presentation on this recent Indian expedition.
<u>February</u>	
12	PNTMC members' talks of recent trips. Bring along your slides.
26	AGM President's shout.
<u>March</u>	
12	PNTMC members' talks of recent trips. Bring along your slides.
26	AGM President's shout.

Trip Grades	
Grades of trips can depend on many factors, most especially the weather and state of the track. As a guide, a reasonably proficient trampler would be expected to cover the graded trips in about the following times: Easy (E) 3 - 4 hours, Medium (M) 5 - 6 hrs, Fit (F) about 8 hrs, Fitness Essential (FE) > 8 hrs. (T) refers to trips graded technical requiring either special skills and / or gear.	
<u>Gear</u>	
The club has gear available for hire. For major trips and instruction courses, some gear might be in short supply and early bookings are desirable. Phone Daryl Rowan (356 4655) between 5 and 6 pm.	
<u>Gear for General Trips</u>	
For <u>day trips</u> , Each person should have appropriate footwear, small pack, lunch and nibbles, water bottle, parka, over trousers, gloves, and woollen head gear. There must be at least one torch, first aid kit, map and compass amongst the group, plus an adequate supply toilet paper and sun cream etc. On snow, dark glasses or preferably goggles are essential.	
For <u>weekend or longer trips</u> , a large pack with sleeping bag and cover, carry-mat, parka, over-trousers, mittens, balaclava, longjohns / change of warm clothes, torch, with spare bulb, map compass, eating utensils, first aid kit, sun cream, candle, matches, toilet paper, and food for appropriate number of days. Dinners are usually communal. Hut passes are required depending on location and plans.	
<u>Overdue Trips Contacts</u>	
Linda Rowan Ph 356 4655, or Brad Owen Ph 358 3467, or Lawson & Sue Pither Ph 357 3033.	
<u>Club Officers for 91/92</u>	
President: Tony Gates 357 0990 Secretary: Brad Owen 358 3467	
Treasurer: Peter Wiles 358 6894 Membership enquiries: Tricia Eder 357 0122	
or Tony Gates 357 0990 Editor: Peter Wiles; Newsletter mailing: Peter Wiles; Gear custodian: Daryl Rowan 356 4655	

P. N. Tramping Mountaineering Club Inc.				
Six Month Event Calendar: January - June 92				
JANUARY				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
5	Diggers	Easy/med	Mick Leyland	358-3183
11	Purity	Med	Doug Strachan	357-5732
18-19	Orongorongo	Food/All	Tony Gates	357-0990
18-19-20	Kuripapango-Kawekas	Family	Lis, Arthur Todd	323-6246
25	Kime	Med/Fit	Mary Crow	329-0749
25-26-27	Bridge to Nowhere	Easy/med	Pauline Coy	356-8782
30	Barbecue	BYO/All	Tricia Eder	357-0122
Club Night 30th				
FEBRUARY				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
2	Tunipo-Toka	Med	Mick Leyland	358-3183
1-2	Holdsworth	Med	Doug Strachan	357-5732
6	Ruapae Falls	Easy	Greg Reid	0637-25878
6-9	Lewis Pass-Brass Monkey	Med	Tony Gates	357-0990
8-9	Dundas-Ruamahanga	Med/Fit	Donald Kerr	359-1065
15-16	Kawhatau-Hikurangi	Med	Perry Hicks	355-1393
22	Track Work Party	Pair of Hands	Monica Cantwell	354-3834
22-23	Tama Lakes	Med/Fit	Peter Wiles	358-6894
29	Rimutaka Walkway	Easy	Sue & Lawson	357-3033
29-1	Lake Colenso	Fit	Mike Hewett	354-6853
Club Nights 13th and 27th				

MARCH				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
1	Sunday	Day trip opportunity?		
7	Mangaweka	Med	Chris Saunders	358-4899
7-8	Mitre	Easy/Med	Mike Johns	355-2162
7-8	Ruapehu	Technical	Tony Gates	357-0990
14	Atene Walkway	Med	John Barkla	06343-6022
14-15	Cattle Creek-Pohongina	Med/Fit	Paul Scheyvens	357-4138
29	Stanfield Hut	Easy	Mike Johns	355-2162
28-29	Parks Peak	Med	Mary Crow	329-0749
Club Nights 12th and 26th				

APRIL				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
4	South Makaretu	Easy/Med	Perry Hicks	355-1393
4-5	Waitewaewae Plus	Med	Mick Leyland	358-3183
11	Ngamoko Biv / Loop	Fit	Daryl Rowan	356-4655
12	Rangi	Easy	Sue & Lawson	357-3083
11-12	Irongates	Easy	Dave Orbell	323-5145
Easter	Day Trips	Easy/Med	Tricia Eder	357-0122
17-20	Otaki River	Med/Fit	Tony Gates	357-0990
17-20+	South Island	Med/Fit	Peter Wiles	358-6894
26	Tukituki River	Easy/Med	Kevin Pearce	357-0217
25-26	Moorcock-Longview-Howletts (with BushTC) Shepherd	Fit	Brenton	06376-8474
Club Nights 16th and 30th				

MAY				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
2	Harris Creek	Med	Tricia Eder	357-0122
2-3	Top Gorge	Med	Mary Crow	329-0749
10	Iron Gates	Med	Brian Lawrence	324-8552
9-10	Otaki Forks-Maungahuka	Fit	Jenni Madgwick	354-0536
16 or 17	Bruce's Hill	Easy	Greg Reid	0637-25878
16-17	Ruahines	Med	To be arranged	
23	Manawatu Gorge	Easy/Med	Doug Strachan	357-5732
23-24	Syme Hut Taranaki	Fit/Tech	Mike Johns	355-2162
30	Kapakapanui	Easy	Tricia Eder	357-0122
30-31-1	Rock Climbing	Technical	Jenni Madgwick	354-0536
30-31-1	Kaimanawas	Med	Peter Wiles	358-6894
Club Nights 14th and 28th				

JUNE				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
1	Monday	Day trip opportunity?		
7	Wharite-Coppermine	Easy	Dave Orbell	323-5145
6-7	Maropea Forks	Med	Mick Leyland	358-3183
13	Purity-Wooden Peg	Med	Derek Sharp	326-8178
13-14	Mystery	Fit	Tony Gates	357-0990
20-21	Mid-Winter Stanfield	All	Tricia Eder	357-0122
28	Longview	Easy/Fit	Daryl Rowan	356-4655
27-28	Trip to be arranged?			
Club Nights 11th and 25th				