

PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

July 1993 Edition

Gear Custodian

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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TRIPS OFTEN LEAVE FROM THE FOODTOWN CAR PARK IN FERGUSON STREET UNLESS THE LEADER ARRANGES OTHERWISE.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING 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.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A DAY TRIP MID-WEEK RING LAWSON AND SUE PITHER (357-3033).

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.

Club 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 unless otherwise notified in the newsletter.

The PNTMC committee meets on the first Thursday of each month.

SCHEDULED EVENT LIST

JULY

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
<u>JULY 24</u>	Rangi	Skiing	Paul Scheyvens	357-4138
<u>JULY 24-25</u>	Dead Dog (Ruahines somewhere?)	M	Mick Leyland	358-3183
<u>JULY 24-25</u>	Te Hekenga	F	Derek Sharp	326-8178
<u>JULY 31-1</u>	Mitre Flats	E	Liz Morrison	357-6532
<u>JULY 31-1</u>	Mitre-Cow Creek	M	Brenton Sheppard	06-376-8474

Club Nights: 15th and 29th

AUGUST

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
AUGUST 8	Makaretu Hut area	M	Malcolm Parker	351-5203
AUGUST 7-8	Snowcraft 2 @ Rangipo M/F		Peter Wiles	358-6894
AUGUST 14	Harris-Baber Creeks	M	Derek Sharp	326-8178
AUGUST 14-15	Rangitau	Open	Sue/Lawson Pither	357-3033
AUGUST 22	Sunrise-Sparrowhawk Biv	E&F	Daryl Rowan	356-4655
AUGUST 21-22	Tahurangi Lodge	Tech	Tricia Eder	357-0122
AUGUST 28-29	Hikurangi Crossing	F	Derek Sharp	326-8178
AUGUST 28-29	Wild Horses Kaimanawas	M	Malcolm Parker	357-5203

Committee Meeting: 5th. Club Nights: 12th and 26th.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

Club Night July 29th - Colin Hancock (of MACPAC) will be talking about clothing, tents and the rest of their gear (excluding packs).

August 12th Mountain Safety videos (hopefully)

August 26th Judy Stockdale about Borneo

September 16th - The Quiz

FUTURE TRIPS

We have confirmation of our booking for a Pinus contorta weekend for 27/28 November. Once again we will be joining up with the Wanganui TC team.

SAREX

Linda and Mick, at the recent local SAR AGM, were elected / delegated? to the sub-committee to organize the next SAREX which is scheduled for March 6-7 1994 and will be based at Sixtus Lodge.

EDITORIAL

FMC MEMBERSHIP

I recently had the pleasure of hearing Hugh Barr, of the FMC executive, giving a slide presentation at the MTSC, of the work done in the field of conservation by the FMC on behalf of affiliated members. I was greatly impressed by the amount of time and effort that the members of the FMC executive put into campaigning in areas of conservation concern for those keen on tramping and mountaineering. In fact his talk and outstanding slides would provide an excellent evening at one of our Club nights.

The reason for Hugh coming to the MTSC was to enable a meaningful discussion on the question of the continued affiliation with FMC to take place at their forthcoming AGM.

I'm sure most of us only think about FMC when we read the FMC bulletin which is published about three times a year and is available to us free as part of the affiliation fee - or do you not bother to read it anyway? Informative articles on important conservation issues, reports on tests of gear (stoves, tents, packs and parkas etc.), book reviews, not to mention the most up to date and authoritative commentary on access problems and mountain recreation policy / thinking in the Government - always fill the 25 or so pages of the bulletin. You may not realize that FMC is financed mainly by a levy based on membership numbers of the affiliated clubs and partly on grants from such organisations as the Hillary Commission (especially the bulletin). This levy is incorporated into our Club's annual subs paid each year (currently comprising about 25% of it).

To my mind there should not be any need to doubt the value of FMC. In the field of conservation they are outstanding - see recent position statements on the Queen's chain and access to public lands, on land claims relating to the Treaty of Waitangi and the Government's view of Crown Land (including natural parks). At the time of the establishment of DOC, the FMC in conjunction with Forest and Bird Society spent many hours ensuring that Crown land with conservation values should be allocated to DOC rather than end up in LANDCORP or FORESTRYCORN and made ready to be sold to the highest tenderer.

If you need more convincing of the value of FMC than I have given you already, and your question is what do I personally get out of it? -

then look at the back three pages of the bulletin;

- books and maps available at 25% discount to club members,
- 30% discount off DOG annual hut passes,
- 30% discount off air and bus fares.

This alone can prove very valuable, and as well there is the FMC Classic Pack (see page 11 of the March 1992 bulletin).

If you are impressed enough with what FMC affiliation has to offer, you can also send them a personal (tax - deductible) donation.

The president of FMC stated earlier this year that '1993 was going to be crunch year for the Federation'. It is up to us to ensure that FMC comes through with flying colours!

Chris Saunders.

MID WINTER EVENT

The mid winter get together was held at the old Putara school house. I don't think anyone got lost finding the place, although I must confess I stopped to check my map a few times. There must have been 20 or more people who came over. Tricia did a superb effort in organising the production of a feast of goodies. There was nearly twice as much food as could be possibly eaten. Many went for a walk up the Herepaj / Roaring Stag track into the snow (and beyond) on either the Saturday or Sunday.

NOTICES

RETURN OF FORMER MEMBERS

Stuart Hubbard who was an active member of the Club in the early part of the 80's is re-established back in PN. Stuart's address is 1 Huia Street and phone is 359-3450.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please send in your subs as there may not be too many more reminders before your regular supply of this value-packed newsletter will cease.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Chris Kelly to 108 Salisbury Street Ashhurst, ph 326-8039

ALPINE CALENDARS

I understand the calendars may have arrived. The price will be \$12.50. If you missed out on the first round, Tony has a list to take your name.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Next meeting will be at Pauline's place 5th August, at 35 Worcester Street starting at 7.45. If you are unable to make it or expect to be late, please ensure that your apology is forwarded to the secretary in advance.

TRIP REPORTS

Don't forget to get your trip reports in, or a letter to the editor, perhaps, or some good gossip, or a poem or what ever.

PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

It must be a sign of the times but rather less people seem to be taking slides these days. In spite of a reasonable turnout, only one person was able to bring any slides for the competition.

As usual the prints tended to excel in the topical category. Tricia and Pauline both presented some fine entries.

BEWARE THE GADGET!

The theme for this month's lesson is one based on that strange phenomenon - the GADGET! You know - the thing we all want but really don't need. The thing we bravely show off to our mates hoping they won't scoff at us - and although they hide their sly remarks - you and I both know they are just jealous and are dying to go and buy one - if for no other reason than you have one and they don't!

What is this GADGET thing then? Well, it can come in all shapes, sizes, colours, textures, hues, tones, space, sounds, time and stupidity.

The most famous GADGET of all, is the 'Swiss army knife', given its phenomenal stature and courage by a nameless TV star who has added a new dimension to the workings and uses of the GADGET! And I thought I knew

everything! I tell you good people, this man has found uses for that GADGET I didn't think even grew on trees! I now have to get hold of the instruction book and its updates (which I've heard has more volumes than the Britannica) for mine and find out what really lies within the walls of that red plastic handled 'monster'. For instance here are some of the uses of this GADGET that I know of and some I've been told about - and I believe everyone of them!

These Swiss army knives come in a variety of models with most having some common features. For example there's the tin opener for prying the stubborn enemy out of foreign tanks, the toothpick for testing tooth cavities in camels, the scissors for trimming nose hair and cutting whale toenails, the screwdriver for tightening the screws on space shuttles, the reamer - now that has some interesting connotations, the corkscrew for taking the tops off radiation canisters, the saw used for cutting out tumours during brain surgery and finally a pick for extracting scouts from horses' hooves.

But what about the things hidden within the knife no one tells you about? Did you know that the reason for the red handle is to attract bulls away from damsels in distress? This is apparently something that has been carried over from the days when knights (who used Swiss army swords) used to save distressed damsels from dragons. We've run out of dragons so I've been told, so now they've substituted them with bulls.

These knives, and it doesn't matter which model you have, all now come with the following standard hidden features. And just because you can't find them doesn't mean they aren't there! For instance, there's the laptop computer fitted with printer and a modem link with the Prime Minister - case you feel the need to tell him/her how to run the country while you contemplate your situation once having found yourself lost in the bush. There is also a cell phone slipped into the toothpick hole. This expands on extraction and has the power to reach anywhere in the world. There's a whole survival kit including a life raft complete with flares, 20 litres of water, oars and 10 days food. The newer ones now come equipped with a microlight for those who want to get home quicker. I've heard also that they are considering releasing the 1994 models with the inclusion of a knife blade. Don't know what the hell they would use that for - seems a bit superfluous to me but the marketing executives have assured management that this is what customer surveys indicate would be most sought after. The technical department is working on exciting recent developments in shape memory alloys which, if successful, should see the 1995 models fitted with an egg beater and a Stillson wrench (a belated but symbolic response to Suffrage Year). However, if you can afford to hang in there for a year or two more, the business strategy unit are working on developments that if revealed prematurely would rock your socks off! It has occurred to executives that there is almost unlimited market scope if the microchip can be fitted into the GADGET - or is it to fit the GADGET into the microchip? Anyway the general concept, if this can be done, will enable the trained, licensed and qualified user to be armed with a set of PIN codes which provide access to the appropriate service (remember those hidden features) so authorized. Tentative release date is 2001.

With the unrivalled success of the GADGET, epidemiologists have noticed a subtle but detrimental effect on human beings. The GADGET-AHOLIC syndrome (GAS) has been identified. The distinguishing features of GAS are easily recognised by trained observers - a vacuous facial expression but with a give away gleam in the eye and/or a collection of GADGET catalogues on the bedside table. While the diagnosis is straight forward, the medical condition is more problematic. You see GAS patients positively thrive! The problem is that the rest of society becomes so demoralized that they gradually wither away into a dark corner and die. You might think there is an obvious solution to this condition - find the GAS gene and inflict everyone with it? Economists have pointed, and perhaps rightly so, that this solution while medically feasible would have fiscal implications that would make the current USA Federal deficit of US\$300,000,000,000 per annum look like a Saturday flutter on the tote. However there is good news and bad news in this situation. With the demise of the Cold War, there is an army of the world's most talented scientists out there looking for a new career (that's the good news) the bad news is the question - how many of them will end up developing the 2001 model GADGET?

Those of you who think you might have GAS - try to get help immediately. Shop with an immune friend who can steer you away from GADGET places. Join GADGET-AHOLICS ANONYMOUS (GAA)! Don't become addicted - once hooked, withdrawal can be fatal! I've seen strong men and stronger women go crazy because of GAS. What they wanted was not available on the day they wanted it - don't let that happen to you!

TRIP REPORTS

"THREE UP - TWO DOWN": A TRIP TO HEREPAI May 29th

Sunrise and we were cruising over the Pahiatua Track - only to be stopped by a large straggly herd of cattle near Eketahuna. Eventually we reached Putara Road end and we set off in a chilly wind over the swing bridge and up the valley.

Three quarters of an hour up is another swing bridge (new since my last visit) saving the necessity of wet feet before a stiff climb to the ridge top where we had a break and a study of the local birds before negotiating the mud puddles along the tops. After a brief climb we emerged into brilliant sunshine. The sunny porch of Herepai Hut is a delightful place for lunch with extensive views along the tops to Herepai, Ruapae and East Peak. We enjoyed an hour lazing in the sun before Tricia and Linda climbed up the track to Herepai Peak. Meanwhile Malcolm climbed up from the hut to take some photos and I climbed the tankstand for a better view and another cuppa in the sun.

By 3 o'clock it was starting to cool and cloud over, so we headed down at a reasonable pace to reach the car just before dusk.

Team: Tricia Eder, Linda Rowan, Malcolm Parker and Liz Morrison.

GIRDLESTONE AGAIN 3rd July

Bruce and Chris had been waiting for a fine forecast and the opportunity to head for the snow once again, and on Saturday 3 July it all came about.

Chris had said that he and Bruce were interested in doing some climbing trips together - Ruapehu perhaps - and that if I was interested I was welcome too. I figured that a foursome would probably be even better still. All we needed was to fit the plan around some fine weather. After a protracted period of westerly winds during June the pattern changed to south easterlies, light winds, sunshine and much lower temperatures. Saturday looked like gold plated climbing weather.

We got up at various times around 4 am and were off by about 5 am with a boot jammed full of gear. In spite of a rather severe frost, we had no difficulty with ice on the road, and we arrived at the Turoa car park just after 7.30 am - ample time for a park on the front row. We set off shortly after 8 am wearing crampons directly off the car park. Derek and I ploughed relentlessly upwards until we reached the deck of the Giant Cafe. Here we had a brief rest and a bite to eat. Soon we began to feel very cold, but with no sign of Chris and Bruce, we decided we better get going again. I always find the big effort in getting up Ruapehu from Turoa is the 300+ metre climb up the Tee-bar - the gradient starts to steepen somewhat and after already having climbed 300-400m the body is not quite as fresh as it might be. To make matters worse, usually the plod up the Tee-bar is in full baking sun. In mid-winter, however, the sun is so low that for much of the day it remains in deep shade. Consequently progress was quite good and we started to sidle over towards the Mangaehuehu Glacier and then towards the south-east ridge crest under Tahurangi which joins up with Girdlestone at about 2600 m. At the ridge we emerged into warm winter sun, tempered a little by high cloud. We descended into the Waihianoa and ploughed a way down on a long sidle towards the Waihianoa face of Girdlestone.

We gained the face about half way up at about 11.30. The face was covered with a rather soft layer about 20 cm deep, whose stability at an average of about 45° was an unknown quantity. The first belay was from an ideal rock bollard. We kept as close as possible to the rocks and placed a snowstake at the halfway point on each pitch. (This had the disadvantage that the belayer was subject to falling lumps of ice from the rocks above.) We used snowstakes as anchors for the rest of the pitches with alternating lead throughs. The fourth pitch was probably the steepest averaging about 50°. The sixth pitch brought us out almost on the ridge crest at which point a herd of MUAC snowcrafters arrived on the scene and seemed rather impressed with our antics - judging by the number of cameras that were directed in our direction.

Not to be fully satisfied with gaining the ridge, Derek suggested that we finish the job off properly by doing another pitch which for a short distance was even steeper than any of the previous but which brought us out about 10 m below the summit of Girdlestone. We arrived at the top as the MUAC herd were leaving at about 2.15 pm. It was time for some lunch. There was no sign of the others at this stage. The view eastwards was one I have never encountered before, in spite of many visits to the eastern side of Ruapehu. A continuous swath of snow extended from Ruapehu east across the Rangipo Desert, across the Desert Road in a band probably 10 -15 km wide, over the Kaimanawas and onwards towards the Kawekas.

We headed off Girdlestone and met up with Chris and Bruce. Meanwhile Chris reports: My only previous climb on Girdlestone was back in 1978, so I was looking forward to a revisit with some relish. Bruce had never been on this peak. For Bruce and myself, the aim was to practice snowstake belays. We had been introduced to these at previous snowcraft courses but had not had the opportunity to use them since. We chose a pleasant couloir on the western face of Girdlestone and felt sure we would have the whole place to ourselves. We didn't want to have to contend with onlookers and people who might put their crampons through our (new) rope (or show us up). Because we were the only ones on the western slopes of the peak, it should have been obvious to us that the Massey students on their snowcraft I course would head up right beside us rather than choose another route. This intrusion interfered with our plans to complete sufficient pitches to get us to the summit. The traffic jam below the peak was such that it was easier to put the rope away and free climb the rest. We met Derek and Peter on their way down and arranged to meet them back at the car. At the top the view was amazing - we could see from the Tasman across to the Pacific. We enjoyed an excellent day and our practice, though limited, was useful. We are keen to get out again and make improvements to our techniques.

We were one of the last to depart the car park at about 5.30 pm into the twilight, a full moon and a magnificently luminous orange - red sunset behind Egmont.

Everyone had an excellent day: Chris Saunders, Bruce van Brunt, Derek Sharp and Peter Wiles.

MATERIAL FOR THE BAD TASTE DEPARTMENT

A small commuter airliner was flying across the English Channel. On board was an American, a Frenchman, an Irishman, a Brit and of course the pilot. The pilot announced to the stunned passengers that the plane was not going to make it and that they were going to have to bail out. However, the news was not all bad to the extent that there were four parachutes available. Clearly someone was going to have to miss out. The American said, "I am the CEO of a major multi-national. If I don't make it, my stockholders will lose a fortune". The Frenchman said, "At home I have got a wife and six young children who will become destitute as they have no other means of support". The Irishman said, "I am the national quiz champion. If I don't make it, my country will lose a national treasure". The Brit said, "I'm a mountaineer; I have no dependents and I've taken a few risks before, I'll stick with the plane as it goes down".

They got themselves organised; the American jumped, followed by the Frenchman and then the Irishman. The pilot was gathering up his flight bag and organising his parachute before leaping out the door when he said to the remaining Brit, "That was terribly noble of you to sacrifice yourself - you deserve a medal for this at least". To which the Brit replied, "It's no big deal man. I should make it now". "How's that?", asked the pilot. The Brit replied, "That Irish chappie... He's just leapt out firmly strapped to my rucksack!!!!!"

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT Ltd.

14 The Square Ph 359-2162

What's new and WARM for the outdoors from Mountain Equipment?

Are you tired of looking for a fleece jacket that is long enough to cover all those vital bits?? At last this year, there are four styles to choose from:

- "Escapade":**
- A swandri-style pullover in Solarplus
 - drawcord waist and hem to keep out draughts
 - zip away hood
 - colours: moss, grape & ink
 - price \$225.00
- "Bedouin":**
- A full length zip jacket (mid thigh)
 - Solarplus outer with windproof taffeta inner
 - zip pockets inside and out
 - drawcords at waist, hem and collar
 - 3 multi-colour way
 - price \$325.00
- "Coup d'etat":**
- a full length zip jacket (mid thigh)
 - Polartek 300 outer with Polartek 200 inner at the front
 - zip pockets inside and out
 - zip away hood
 - draw cords waist, hem and collar
 - colours: navy, grape, balsam
 - price \$279.00

JUST ARRIVED

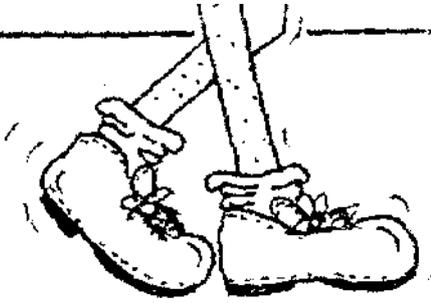
- Duffle Coat:**
- a full length zip jacket (mid thigh)
 - Polartek 300 all through
 - lots of pockets
 - draw cords at waist, hem and collar
 - colours: navy, balsam and red
 - price \$225.00

Remember: Solarplus = Polarplus = Polartek 300 = warmest
And don't forget. Thursday 29th July at 7.30 pm. Come and hear Colin from MACPAC WILDERNESS talk about the WILDERNESS range of clothing at MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT.

See you there - Hillary.

PNTMC
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**GET INTO
WALKING WITH
MOUNTAIN
EQUIPMENT**

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