



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

September 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

SEPTEMBER

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
SEPTEMBER 4	Rimutaka Walkway	E	Richard Lockett	323-6489
SEPTEMBER 4-5	Egmont	M/F	Bruce van Brunt	356-4217
SEPTEMBER 12	Kaiparoro Clearing	E	Brenton Sheppard	06376-8474

We will meet the Pahiatua group at Eketahuna at 8.45 am and then drive to the Eketahuna water catchment area. The trip will then start the walk up to the clearing and hopefully find the crashed aircraft on the way. Lunch on the clearing. On the way back we can molest a few freshwater crayfish and return via the forestry track.

SEPTEMBER 11-12 Snowcraft 3 @ Whangaehu F/T Peter Wiles 358-6894
Leave on Friday evening about 6.00 pm. If the weather is clear we will walk up to Whangaehu Hut in the dark a minimum of 3 hours. If the weather is not so good we will walk across to Rangipo and walk up to Whangaehu in the morning.

<u>SEPTEMBER 19</u>	Diggers/Forks	M	Brian Lawrence	324-8552
<u>SEPTEMBER 18-19</u>	Ironbark Hut	M	Chris Saunders	358-4899
A medium overnight trip over the north end of the Mokai Patea Range and down to the Waikamaka River. Splendid views in fine weather and there may be some snow to add variety.				
<u>SEPTEMBER 18-19</u>	Tararua Peaks	FE	Nigel Barrett	356-1568
<u>SEPTEMBER 25</u>	Santoft Beach/Beach	E	Liz Morrison	357-6532
Leave town about 8 am and head for the forest and then head back along the beach. Suitable for families and anyone interested in a spot of beach combing and a fancy picnic lunch perhaps?				
<u>SEPTEMBER 25-26</u>	Yoemans Track	Mtn Bike Pedals	Aaron Panchaud	354-8422

Committee meeting: 2nd. Club Nights: 16th and 30th.

OCTOBER

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
<u>OCTOBER 3</u>	Purity	M	Tricia Eder	357-0122
Departure is planned for 6.30 am. We will go to the Purity Hut and continue up towards Wooden Peg and Iron Peg depending upon the weather and the energy of the team. The steepest grunt is up the farmland as we follow the fence-line directly up the spur. Then the track starts at the bush edge and is relatively steady up to the hut.				
<u>OCTOBER 10</u>	Pohangina River	E/M	Linda Rowan	356-4655
<u>OCTOBER 9-10</u>	Holdsworth	E/M	Pauline Coy	356-8782
We will leave on Saturday at 7 am for this trip. We will use the Gentle Annie track to Mt Holdsworth and stay overnight at Jumbo Hut. Next day it's down to the river and back via Holdsworth Lodge. Ring Thursday, because if the weather prospect is fine plans may be altered to go to Egmont instead.				
<u>OCTOBER 17</u>	Tunipo/Toka Peaks	M	Peter Stockdale	355-5277
Labour weekend (Those without exams, make use of daylight saving.)				
<u>OCTOBER 23-24-25</u>	1/2/3 day options	Any	Tricia Eder	357-0122
A trip to Lake Colenso is one possibility.				
<u>OCTOBER 25</u>	Pohangina Reserve	Family	Linda Rowan	356-4655
<u>OCTOBER 31</u>	Waipawa	E	Tricia Eder	357-0122
<u>OCTOBER 30-31</u>	Waterfall Creek	M	Perry Hicks	355-1393

Committee meeting: 7th. Club Nights: 14th and 28th.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

September 16th - The Quiz bring a cushion just in case. Later in year: Forest and Bird Society, Judy Stockdale on Borneo, Graham Langton on some aspect of the history of New Zealand mountaineering and much more.

EDITORIAL

We are currently preparing a submission in response to the recently published conservation management strategy (CMS) draft for DOC's Hawkes Bay Conservancy covering the period 1993-2003. DOC require feedback from people such as ourselves, and have invited comment.

There are two volumes to the draft CMS, both of which are the size of the local telephone book (on recycled paper by any chance?) Volume One introduces the CMS and discusses in fair detail what is actually in the Hawkes Bay Conservancy. The guts of it is then fleshed out in the chapters entitled; Treaty Issues, Unprotected Areas, Statutory Advocacy, Protection of Lands, Protected Species, Commercial, Administration, Recreation, Public Awareness, Liaison, Compliance and Resources. Maps and photos are of course included. Volume Two consists mainly of land inventory sheets. (Anyone interested in perusing these documents please contact Peter Wiles.)

Tony recently attended a public meeting organised by DOC staff and conservancy board members to discuss the draft CMS. Routine DOC business was discussed and some controversial issues emerged such as; military manoeuvres in

the area, public access to the area, noxious plants (most notably Pinus Contorta), wild animal control, and rubbish in and around some of the huts. The issue of public access is particularly pertinent to PNTMC because of the lack of official entrances to the Ruahine Park, especially, on the western side. We are indeed lucky to have obliging landowners and DOC workers in our area. PANZ, as discussed in last month's editorial is an organization set up by concerned parties to lobby specifically for public access. This case is definitely not closed.

Anyway, the gist of PNTMC's submission is that we believe DOC are doing a good job with the resources available to them. We wish to be kept informed about such concerns as hut, track and bridge maintenance, especially tracks with limited maintenance. With recent increases in public recreational use of the DOC estate, DOC has to listen to what users require, which is why a submission is so important. Assuming most clubs also provide written submissions, DOC staff will be kept busy.

NOTICES

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome Tui Jarmin to the Club. Tui's address and phone number are: 1 Surrey Crescent, Palmerston North; phone 358-2654.

PANZ MEETING - PUBLIC ACCESS

If you consider access to the back country is a precious right to be closely guarded then don't forget the public meeting to put pressure where it counts - on the politicians; Wednesday 22nd September at Guilfords Palmerston North at 7.30 pm. We need numbers.

FURTHER POLITICAL MATERIAL ON RELATED MATTERS

The FMC paper machine is into full gear for the run up to the election. Attached to this newsletter is their latest news release. Please digest it thoroughly. The issues are important and have far reaching implications on our activities which we rather too much take for granted. Please get motivated and take up their suggestions for action.

We have also received a copy of a report, prepared by the New Zealand Tourism Board, titled "New Zealand Conservation Estate and International Visitors". If anyone is interested in this document please contact Peter Wiles. Once I have digested it a bit, I will make some comments on it. It appears to have some valuable insights into the activities overseas visitors are becoming more interested in.

ALPINE CALENDARS

The calendars have arrived. The price will be \$12.50. If you missed out on the first round, Peter has a few left that are unspoken for.

QUIZ

We are to host and organize the inter-club quiz. A sub-committee has been formed to carry out this task. If you think you might have an idea or two for some questions or activities or events, please let Pauline or Derek or Tricia know. (Remember, we are hosting it in the Society's rooms so space is likely to be at a premium - erecting tents has already been rejected.) We are chronically short of a team as usual. This year some of our star competitors are overseas – tough isn't it?

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The September meeting had to be abandoned due to a lack of a quorum. 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 (leaders) please get your trip reports in or use your short lived powers to delegate to an unsuspecting team member. How about a letter to the editor, perhaps, or some good gossip, or a poem or what ever.

Is your DOC season pass about to expire? It is understood DOC are deliberating again over their hut pass policy. We will keep you posted on developments.

TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS

DOC has issued a public notice that the Morecocks Road beyond the base is closed for maintenance until further notice. Parking will now be at the old Morecock Base. This will mean an extra 3.5 km to walk.

Mangahao Riverbed area. For the period July 26 until September 21, ECNZ advise that maintenance work being carried on the system means that flows in the river bed may be increased.

TRIP REPORTS

KIME HUT

Us four (Mick Leyland, Tricia, Andrew Carvell and Brian Lawrence) left the Foodtown car park, at 7.00 am in spitting rain for Otaki Forks. We walked up the track towards Field Hut for a few minutes and then it started raining in earnest for most of the day.

Be that as it may, I didn't get depressed as the track up to Kime has recently been up graded. Old bog holes have timber edgings, topped off with gravel and seem to go on for miles. There's even a 100 m long board-walk curving through the swamp. (Tramping on a motorway!)

We had lunch at Kime and morning and afternoon teas at Field Hut. The weather at Kime was unpleasant with cold rain driven by a south westerly stinging into our faces. I only just managed to keep up with Tricia as she jetted on down to the car park. We indulged in fish and chips back in PN. - Yummm!

A SUNDAY IN THE SNOW - August 8 th.

For a variety of reasons we were unable to join Peter for his snowcraft course on Egmont. However, come Sunday the perfect weather was holding - it was just too good to miss. We, therefore, decided to make a quick trip to Rangipo on the east side of Ruapehu.

We left at 6 am and we were walking by 8.30 am. The snow was perfect for cramponing early in the day. We practised front pointing up various steep bits and explored cornices, caves and took lots of photos for the next photo competition. Rangipo Hut was a welcome place for lunch. (Not many people seem to stay there over the winter months.) In the afternoon, we made our way up to the Tukino Ski field where others seemed to be having their snowcraft course that day. Then we finished the day off with a gentle stroll back to the car and we were back home by 6 pm. (Mick, Tricia and Pauline.)

P.S. The major excitement was plodding up the top of the snow slope where a stop to look at the view saw Mick's sunglasses (which he had just taken off and placed on the ground) go sliding back down to the bottom. A debate on the cost of writing them off ensued but they were needed because of the sun!

SNOW CRAFT II - Success and serious problems by Peter Wiles

After the numbers were reduced to a total of just two, I wondered whether it was worth going, but I had managed to secure Kapuni Lodge for the weekend and I was keen to revisit it after a couple of years. (The problem with Rangipo is that it is practically impossible to climb anything when using the hut as a base for snowcraft I or II.)

The forecast for the weekend looked good - especially Saturday. The walk up to the Lodge was completed in little over an hour - the latter part in good moonlight and a frost that set us crunching through countless puddles before the snow was encountered.

Next morning was fine and calm with extensive high cloud to the north and east which was favourable for the climb up to the Syme Hut area. The traditional snowcrafting venue, about 100 m above the hut in Kapuni Gorge was not viable due to a lack of snow. In fact there was less snow about than I have encountered at this time of the year. Nevertheless, what snow there was, was frozen hard and we put our crampons on at the front door of the hut. We made good progress up to the saddie (Rangitoto Flat) and once on the snow proper (250 m above the Lodge) found that it was almost ideal with minimal sastrugi. (I also noted that since my last visit (about 2 years ago) a good line of poles to mark the route had been installed.)

We stopped on the saddle for a brief snack and then I decided that with the conditions almost ideal and the prospect that conditions tomorrow could hardly be any better, we would climb directly to the summit. (Later I was told that the northern side was really icy and required considerable care.) Aaron led the way and we made very good progress on the best snow conditions I have encountered on this side of the mountain. We reached the summit at about 11 am. Already there were one or two at the top who had climbed up from Tahurangi Lodge. Soon there was a steady stream of arrivals and it transpired that NZAC were holding a snowcraft weekend on the mountain. Shortly after we arrived, John Thomson arrived and was followed a little later by Jenni Madgwick. Conditions were perfect - almost no wind and increasing sun.

One of the NZAC crew had one of the super lightweight cellular phones which many people including Aaron took the opportunity to ring home on! After another snack we descended into the crater towards the north eastern rim where the NZAC team were doing their stuff. We climbed a couple of short but straight forward gully routes. I decided that a more extending and interesting prospect was to climb along the ridge to the Shark's Tooth. This we tackled without too many problem but going up was one thing, coming down another. I wondered whether I should have brought my pack with the rope and other gear in it. However in spite of the exposed situation, we took our time and carefully retraced our steps. (The last step and corner at the bottom being the most difficult to reverse.)

Shortly after 1 pm we gathered up our gear and headed back to the southern entrance and began the descent to the plateau. By this time the afternoon cloud had built up and was lapping around the summit of Phantom's Peak. Aaron found the long slope down quite intimidating - especially the realization that everything depended on the crampons.

On the way we passed three chaps heading up. It was interesting to see just how little snow build up there had been thus far during the winter. Not only was Syme Hut standing well up in the snow but the old hut which I thought had been demolished was also standing well proud of the snow. (On previous occasions at this time or year, there has been not the slightest trace of it.)

Once we were on a bench about 15 m above the saddle we dumped our gear, had another snack and got the rope out for some serious snowcrafting. First came roping for glacier travel followed by belaying. For a bit of variety it was time to try self arresting but before that I felt that it would be worthwhile to get an idea of what a slide on firm snow was like. So we went down to where the slope was no more than 15° and there the run out was perfect and Aaron was off. I noticed after a slight bump his crampon bit into the snow pulling him round sharply. When he came to a stop I almost at once noticed he had hurt himself and he complained of wrenching his ankle. However after a few minutes he felt okay enough to continue with the self arresting and then after that we went back to putting some of the belay work to the test.

At about 4 pm we packed up and headed down into the cloud making good use of the marker posts. Aaron made slow progress as he could put minimal weight on his foot. We reached the hut at about 5.45 pm and decided that we should pack up and head down. We left shortly after dark at about 6.30 pm. Progress was slow but steady. After about an hour we passed Hooker Hut but shortly after both our torches gave out. Once we were into the bush section it was essentially pitch black and injuries aside, the darkness was now the rate determining issue. We grovelled on for ages at a snail's pace feeling our way with an occasional flash of the torch to assist. We must have covered only a few hundred metres in the next hour and on a couple of occasions we were in danger of losing the track as we ventured off down a couple of the water courses that drain off to the side. Every step was the risk of more damage to the ankle. I wondered whether it might be better to wait until the moon came up - due after 11 pm. Finally it dawned on me that I had a couple of candles near the bottom of my pack. I found them and managed to light them. There was no wind in the bush and now we could see where we were going. Progress improved considerably and was no longer light limiting. Soon we could hear the stream and before too much longer we crossed it and arrived at the car at 9.45 pm. We arrived back in PN at about 1 am.

After an x-ray later in the day - the bad news was revealed - a fracture just above the ankle.

THERE AND BACK AGAIN (OR NOT TO SPARROWHAWK BIVY)

A loop from Makaroro Base Camp via Sparrowhawk Bivy and Sunrise Hut to the Waipawa road end was aborted due to unfortunate weather but a combined day trip to Sparrowhawk was attempted instead. The Makaroro River gave pleasant if cold walking, the first part of the ridge is slightly exposed and scenic and then climbs through interesting mixed forest, through an orchid zone and on upwards before flattening out for a time - then up again. During lunch, hail gave way to driving snow and we decided to retreat. (We were still 500 m below the bivy) We almost went and came back again. No dragons.

We were; Mick Leyland, David Hodges, Tricia Eder, John Craven, Tui Jarmin, B. Baggins, Hillary and Daryl Rowan.

TRIP TO MAKARETU HUT - 8 August by Malcolm Parker

Have you ever had one of those trips where, no matter how well prepared you are nothing goes according to plan? I guess we all have. This trip was no exception.

Originally I had intended to wander into Makaretu from the end of Ngamoko Road. I had heard on the grapevine that the track had recently been tidied up, so it should have been a pleasant trip. However, theory doesn't always translate into reality.

By chance Jenny mentioned that in fact the track had not been tidied up and recut. Remembering how unpleasant it had been last time I was in there, I decided to consult the guys that should know all the answers. After a couple of phone calls I talked to the right DOC office. I explained the plans and he advised that of all of the tracks in the areas that have recently been recut this wasn't one of them. It is intended to be this summer. Now we were looking for alternatives. This helpful chap suggested we go in to Happy Daze from the end of the Manawatu River Road and then follow the Makaretu River up to Makaretu Hut. Sounds great. BUT!

When we arrived at the road end there were none of the usual tell tale signs like track markers or signs to indicate where the track went. But there were signs like "Private Property" which gave you the rough idea that the owner chap didn't want you in there. So we reverted to the map and compass 'till we ran across a couple of friendly locals. It was then that we discovered that we were already on private property and would be all the way to Happy Daze.

Not wanting to upset anyone, we decided it would be best to go and ask the owners and take an easier, more direct route in and effectively follow the farm track along the Makaretu River. Both were more than happy for us to cross their land and were very helpful to boot.

The tramp itself was very pleasant after all this. We finally started tramping again at about 10.30 am and got to Happy Daze across the farmland in about an hour, and to Makaretu in a further 1½ hours. The trip up the river from Happy Daze is a very pleasant section of the valley and under normal circumstances would be graded easy. After a very quick stop for lunch and with rain threatening, a hasty retreat was beat back to the car and a chat with the farmer. If you are planning a trip in this area you need to contact Mr G Ellison at Glenburn Station on Ellison Road (Ph 06-855-8336) for permission to cross both Glenburn and Fernlea Stations.

The team was; Dale Lockhart, Jenny McCarthy, Malcolm Parker and Monica Cantwell.

RANGITAU - AUGUST 14-15 by Stuart Hubbard

Sue and Lawson Pither described this as a "do it yourself " weekend based at their well appointed A-framed house at Rangitaua for various skiing/tramping activities. Being located 16 km this side of Ohakune, the location is excellent.

On Friday night the mountain stood out clearly - hardly a cloud in sight, but by Saturday morning a stiff nor-wester was on its way. Sue and Lawson decided to make for Mangaehuehu Hut, while Terry and I were intent on skiing. However, after a brief consultation with Ohakune locals led us to believe that the weather would only worsen, so we reverted to plan "B".

Terry was deposited at the Turoa ski field car park, complete with iceaxe and crampons with the intention of navigation across country to rendezvous with the others at Mangaehuehu Hut.

Always courageous in the face of adversity, Terry remained undeterred by his failure to blend in with the multi-hued lycra-clad fashion victims in the car park. His map and compass work must have been sound, however, as both parties reached the hut at about the same time (taking about 2½ hours). When we returned to the main road, we discovered that the skifield had closed due to strongish winds.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Lawrence, Tricia and her two nephews (Fabian and Dominic) had arrived and had occupied themselves around Ohakune. A sumptuous spread washed down by various homebrews and other beverages completed the day.

On Sunday, the wind had swung to the south, but steady drizzle coupled with the odd bit of overnight snow closed the skifield again. After a very lazy morning, Terry and I did the bush walk which was quite sheltered that starts near the ranger station. There was not much done in the way of skiing, but everyone had a most enjoyable weekend nonetheless.

Thanks to Lawson and Sue for their hospitality. They intend to have another "open weekend" sometime in October and hopefully more people will take advantage of the opportunity this time around – and perhaps there will be some skiable snow around.

AND LESS SERIOUS MATTERS - extract from the NBR of 27 August.

It's nearly four months since the **New Zealand Geographic Board** (*original text emphasis*) caved in to political pressure and changed the spelling of the Wanganui River to the **Whanganui River**.

"With this corrected spelling, the word Whanganui takes on a softer sound and a more historically correct meaning," the board said in a release. More politically correct, M'sieur reckons.

He recalls the debate was launched in 1986 when the Whanganui National Park (revised spelling) was created. The people of Wanganui were furious. How dare these greenies steal the name, the towns folk said, and they vowed to fight any change to the name of the river or the then city.

In spite of muddled views of **Te Puna Korero Whenua** (Department of Survey and Land Information), M Petard knows that Maori living in the Taranaki/Wanganui region don't say Fanganui with a hard "f"; they say Wanganui or something very close to it.

What is certain, the former city of Wanganui (now sadly a district under reorganised local government) isn't changing its name. In 1844 the citizens petitioned the governor to change the name of the settlement from Petrie to Wanganui (no "h") and 10 years later it was confirmed. They might have been wise to stick to Petrie after all.

The Department of Survey and Land Information (Dosli), by the way, is not only politically correct, but also environmentally sensitive. Its news releases are printed on the back of cut up maps.

And more from this fountain of background inspiration:

Petard has learnt of a new verb that has entered the Kiwi language. To "**Winstonise**" apparently means to deliver the insubstantial in a substantial way.

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