



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

MAY 1995 Edition

President	: Terry Crippen	356-3588
Membership Enquiries	: Jenny Prichard	358-2217
	: Nigel Barrett	326-8847
Gear Custodian	: Mick Leyland	358-3183
Newsletter Editor & Newsletter Distribution	: Peter Wiles	358-6894

ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Mick Leyland	: Ph. 358-3183
Daryl & Linda Rowan	: Ph. 356-4655
Sue & Lawson Pither	: Ph. 357-3033

TRIPS OFTEN LEAVE FROM THE FOODTOWN CAR PARK IN FERGUSSON 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 SEE DETAILS BELOW, OR RING Lawson and Sue Pither (357-3033), or Monica (354-3834), Nancy (358-8241), John (358-3513).

Trip Grades

Grade of trips can depend on many factors, most especially the weather and state of the track. As a guide, a reasonably proficient trumper 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. (Tech) refers to trips graded technical requiring either special skills and / or gear.

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

MAY

CLUB NIGHTS: 11th & 25th

MAY 14	Makairo	Easy	Brenton Sheppard	06-376-8474
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Dept 8:30 am This is an area east of Pahiatua in from Waewaenui Road. This is an easy walk to a place that the club has not led a trip to. It is also a challenging mountain bike trip. If there is a sufficient number of vehicles it will be possible to do a cross over trip. So if it's a walk you want or a bike ride, phone up Brenton.

MAY 13-14 Penn Creek Medium Richard Lockett 323-0948
DEPT 7:30 am From Otaki Forks, Richard will be going to Penn Creek Hut via Field Hut track.

MAY 18 Thursday day trippers Tony Cameron 356-5461

MAY 21 Rangī Easy Jenny McCarthy 06-376-88:
Depart 8 am. Rangī Hut, in the western Ruahines, has been favourite haunt of PNTMC over the years. This trip will either go direct to the hut or do the loop depending on the conditions.

MAY 20-21 Rime Hut Medium Doug Strachan 357-5732
Depart 7 am. From the Otaki Valley up onto the tops and along to the hut for the night and a look around a classic part of the Tararuas.

MAY 25 Thursday day trippers Russell Johnson 358-7777

MAY 25 CLUB NIGHT

This evening's speaker is John Barkla, an ex- PNTMC club member John works for DOC in Wanganui and his special interest is endangered native plant species. This evening he will speak about threatened plants conservation in the Wanganui -Rangitikei -Manawatu areas.

MAY 27-28 McRinnon Hut Medium Llew Prichard 358-2217
Depart 7.30 am. Onto the Hikurangi Range from Rawhatau River, for excellent views and McKinnon hut for the night. Returning via valley or tops depending on conditions. (This was detailed as a day trip on the trip card.)

MAY 27-28 Lake Dive Easy/Medium Malcolm Parker 357-5203
Depart 7 am. Up to Dawson Falls, up to Kapuni Lodge and across the tussock on the RTM track before dropping down to the hut. Staying over night and returning via the lower track.

JUNE

Committee meeting 1st
Club Nights: Thursdays 15th and 29th

Date	Trip	Grade'	Leader	Phone
	Queens Birthday 3-4-5			
JUNE 3-5	Kaweka Range	M	Patrick Janssen	356-3116
	Drive up to Makahu Saddle on the Hawke's Bay side, over the top, past Back Ridge hut and down to Rocks Ahead Hut. Back along the northern ridge via Venison Tops and Ballards Hut.			
JUNE 4	Toka &/or Tunipo	M	Adam Fort	355-1389
	Depart 7 am. Either one or both of these high-points on the Ngamoko Range (western Ruahines) will be visited. They are great places for good views and sunbathing in some snow.			
JUNE 11	Stanfield plus	E	Peter Stockdale	355-5277
	Depart 8 am. A wander up the western Tamaki River, eastern Ruahines to Stanfield Hut, then either a look into Cattle Creek or a loop back via the Takapari ridge.			
JUNE 10-11	Sawtooth Ridge	M/F	Andrew Carvell	359-0935
	Depart 6 am. An interesting section of the main Ruahine Ranoe especially in winter with snow cover. This will be done as a loop staying at Howletts hut for the night.			
JUNE 15	CLUB NIGHT Mt Pumori			
	John Barnes, a local mountaineer and a member of NZ Alpine Club, will give a talk on the recent ascent, the south ridge, of this great peak (7145 m) in the Khumbu region of the Nepalese Himalaya.			
	Mid Winter			
JUNE 17	Colenso Trig	M	Mick Leyland	358-3183
JUNE 17-18	Kawhatau Base	Food	Pauline Coy	354-9120
JUNE 17 or 18	Kawhatau River	Hardy	Midwinter dip?	
JUNE 25	Hound Hike	E	Liz Morrison	357-6532

JUNE 24-25 Howletts plus F Tony Gates 357-7439
Depart dawn Saturday. In via Daphne, on the eastern side of the Ruahines, up to cosy Howletts Hut for the night with cramponing around the sunny tops for good views.

JUNE 29 Photo Competition

Start getting all those good slides or prints together for presenting at the annual PNTMC photo competition. The various categories will be given in the June newsletter. Local professional photographer, John Cleland, will judge your entries. John always gives good advice and ideas about how to get the best results with your camera in the hills.

EDITORIAL

"Tramping" and "Mountaineering", now that sounds interesting ...and there's a speaker on "Patagonia" at the next club night ...right, of my chuff, let's go

So started my career with the club last year. Now I' am helping to run the show as a new committee member. First task: Editorial for the Newsletter. And I volunteered! - such commitment - even I am impressed.

Actually the "mountaineering" bit made me hesitate at first... Out of my league ... too serious of intent. A decidedly significant step upwards from my experience with the Te Aroha and Districts Tramping Club. Our "mountain trips" were definitely pitched at the "non-technical" end of the scale. Still, in terms of promoting the enjoyment' of the Great Outdoors, they were a huge success and broadened our horizons immensely.

With the move down here came fresh opportunities, a whole new region to explore, new skills to develop and new friends to be made.

But "mountaineering"? Oh, I've been in the mountains before Arthur's Pass, Annapurna, Mt Kenya, Grindleveld, Mont Blanc ... but not REALLY "mountaineering". I've even experienced altitude sickness and been dug out of an avalanche on Ruapehu, but not really "mountaineering".

I needn't have been worried. One look at the trip card and newsletter, clearly shows just how much variety the club offer. From Easy day-walks to Technical mountain climbing. Every weekend! Amazing for such a small club. This level of activity is of course only sustainable with the keen support of the wide range of experienced trampers and climbers who are encouraged to lead trips.

Yes, this is a club of serious intent. Seriously into adventure, challenge and fun! .That'll do me nicely; thanks.

I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months, but in the meantime Happy Tramping.

Warren

We record with regret the recent death of Catherine McCarthy at Punakaiki. Catherine had enjoyed several trips with the club over the years - especially caving and tramping. Our sympathy to Jenny, Steve and Catherine's many friends.

NOTICES

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome two new members to the club:

Vanessa Johnson
24 Raglan Avenue,
Palmerston North.
Ph 354-2496

Kevin Fletcher
Lethbridge Road,
RD 9, Feilding.
Ph 323-3957

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

If you are unable to make it or expect to be late, please ensure that your apology is forwarded to the secretary in advance. Next meeting at Nigel Scott's place 146 Salisbury Street Ashhurst.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the AGM, it was resolved that subscriptions would remain unchanged for 95/96. They are - Ordinary \$25, Family \$30 and Junior \$10. Please get your subs into the treasurer as soon as possible.

MAPS

If you have ordered any maps -good news; they have arrived and are available from Nigel.

FORTHCOMING TRIP CARD

The Club's Trip Card for the next six months (July through to December / January) is now being prepared. If you have that favourite area you are wanting to visit, either as a day trip, weekend trip or longer, close by or far away, of whatever grade, now is the time to offer yourself as a trip leader. People have so far offered to lead various trips to the Tararua and Ruahine Ranges, TNP and ENP, Arthurs Pass and the Havelock Valley, and to nooks and crannies around

the local countryside with feet, bikes, shovels, tubes or rafts being utilised. However there is still days and weekends available for more offers.

If you want to lead a trip contact either of the two Trip Convenors (Terry 356-3588, Derek 326-8178). There will be a finalising Trip Card meeting at Terry's (11 Pahiatua St) on the evening of Tues May 30th at 7:45. Prospective leaders welcome.

SNOWCRAFT COURSES

This is a preliminary note that the annual series of snowcraft courses will begin with Snowcraft 1 on the weekend of 22-23 July, with Snowcraft 2 and 3 a fortnight and four weeks later respectively. It is hoped that all those club members and prospective members who are new to the alpine world of snow will avail themselves of the opportunity to come on these progressive courses. Being competent on snow opens up a wider field of tramping: from day walks on the Ruahine tops and Ruapehu's slopes in winter; to trans-alpine summer or winter trips in the Southern Alps.

For those who are contemplating these courses the FMC "Mountaincraft Manual" is invaluable. They are considerably discounted if purchase direct from FMC (just over \$9). The club will send away for a bulk order. Let Terry or Nigel know soon.

LIBRARY

The club was alleged to have a library at one time, although I am not sure that I ever actually saw it. Be that as it may, we do not intend to revive the idea. However, a better idea has been mooted, that we should assemble a list of mountain environment books that people have and which can be borrowed. We will be working on it.

USING WHANGAEHU HUT

A new dunny should now be complete. Will it endure any longer than the previous one? Or the one before that, or the one before that? Whangaehu Hut can be booked through Sandra Steingrimsson ph/fax 07-843-8380, or write 4 Joanna Place, Hamilton.

Also, Mick has a key for the Tukino Road gate - if you think you have got what it takes to get that far!

TRIP COSTS

This question was raised again at the committee (after a lull of several years). We will be discussing it further and producing a revised trip cost list.

ROUTE BURN TRACK

The Routeburn Track has finally given in to usage pressure. DOC have introduced a booking system for prospective users. Bookings may be made from 3 July, via DOC's Great Walks Booking Desks, located in Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin, Queenstown, Glenorchy and Te Anau. The booking season lasts from 30 October until 30 April (inclusive) each year at this stage.

CLUB NIGHTS

At the AGM it was resolved that club nights will be standardised on the second and last Thursdays of the month. This will come into effect from July because the club nights for the first half of the year have been specified in the current trip card.

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. Electronic copy is the most convenient. This newsletter is prepared using Wordperfect. So I can retrieve any material in Wordperfect format (version 5, 5.1, 5.2 or 6, in either DOS or Windows). If you use Microsoft Word or a MAC, then I need an ASCII (or DOS text file) version. With a MAC, you will need a DOS formatted disc. I can only handle 3½ inch discs.

If you have DOS or Windows, and are not sure that you have saved it in ASCII format, then retrieve it into Notepad (Windows) or Edit (DOS) to check the copy. If it's OK, it's OK, if it's not, it's not!

TRIP DECISIONS?

If you decide you want to go on a trip, please ensure that you have contacted the leader by the Wednesday before, so that logistical decisions can be made. Recently, there have been some instances of people expressing an interest in a trip on the evening before - the leaders in some cases, having made other plans at that late stage.

HOW WERE THOSE HUT PASS DOLLARS SPENT?

DOC (Pohangina) have recently upgraded Mid Pohangina Hut to a luxuriously appointed affair with new bunks, sky-light, kitchen bench, porch and painted floor. An excellent spot about 3½ hours tramp from the car park. Check it out.

CONSTITUTION UPDATE

We have had the revised Constitution accepted and lodged at the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and an officially stamped copy returned. So after nearly two years, we are all legal and official again.

TRIP REPORTS

SUTHERLAND'S BUSH SUNDAY 5 March

Inland from Turakina, along the Turakina Valley road, is a little known treasure: Sutherland's Bush Reserve. This is a good place to go when you'd like to explore ,an unfamiliar bit of the countryside, stretch your legs at a strolling pace and enthuse over some beautiful native bush.

We left town at a suitably late hour of the morning, picked up the Dennisons at Sanson and arrived at the roadside around an hour later. Our late start set the tone for the slow pace of life that we all intended to enjoy that Sunday, and Sutherland's Bush was the perfect place for a relaxed stroll. For those who have laboured up the steep slopes of the Tararuas and Ruahines, and despaired of ever finding a piece of flat walking in this region; well despair no longer and visit this area soon!

Sutherland's Bush is a "Forest and Bird" Conservation Reserve and is a piece of precious bush set aside amidst the farmland. You step over the stile into another world. The first section of the track is amidst tall trees: kahikatea, tawa, rewarewa ... and at this time of the year many of the berries were visible on the ground underneath our feet. Part way round the circuit we saw some Maori food pits. A great array of ferns were in the undergrowth, along with many seedlings. One of the advantages of our slow pace was the chance to notice and enjoy the wide variety of fungi in their seasonal abundance.

We saw tuis and were followed by a number of friendly fantails. (Of course we had to slow down and stop to enjoy their company!) This is an area where cockatoos have settled; but although we heard a few cockatoo noises in the distance, we weren't treated to their raucous screeching directly overhead on this occasion.

We ended our relaxed stroll with lunch at the wooden cable cylinders that provide picnic tables under some titoki trees back at the beginning of the track. One of the children then added plastic mug to the interior of one of our cable tables, just to provide some archaeological evidence for the future, and perhaps a home for some beetles in the meanwhile.

It was a pleasant, relaxed outing and thanks for sharing an enjoyable bit of "exercise" go to trip members who were: Jo, Laurence, Fabian and Dominic O'Halloran, Chris Morey, Pauline Coy, the Dennisons, John Pike, John Lowrie and Margaret Riordan.

LONGVIEW HUT April 2

We left the city at 7:00 and headed through the Gorge up to the Eastern Ruahines along Ashley Clinton Road to the car park at Moorcock Base. We decided to hit the ridge in the morning and leave the road walk to the end of the day. The track was well marked and we quickly made our way up to the top of the ridge along to the hut. Clouds swooshed up from the valley and we had our first rain for the day as we were leaving Longview Hut. We made our way down the rather steep shoulder to the road, then headed back to the cars. We were eight in number that included, Martin Lawrence, Pauline Coy, Trevor Meyle, Monica Cantwell, Brian Glendinning, Malcolm Parker, Peter and Judy Stockdale.

WALKING AROUND GIRDLESTONE - Easter by Peter Wiles

I had yet to walk the section of the Round-the-mountain track (RTMT) from Rangipo around the south-eastern corner of Ruapehu to the Turoa Road. I had been considering doing it on and off for several years - at the right time of year and if the weather was right. I figured as a weekend trip, it could be done quite nicely by starting front the Turoa car park and climbing up towards Tahurangi and crossing the Tahurangi-Girdlestone ridge before either descending the Wahianoa valley to the RTMT, or descending the Whangaehu valley, or descending the east ridge of Mitre. In each case one could spend the night at Rangipo Hut. The second day would be spent on the RTMT as far as Blythe Hut before heading back tip to the Turoa car park and the car.

Saturday and Sunday of Easter this year was the perfect opportunity to carry out the plan. We left the car park at about 9:15 and headed up the road. We had a brief stop outside the Giant Cafe before climbing up to the top of the T-bar before sidling eastwards to the Mangaehuehue glacier. The weather was good, with slight breeze and not too much sun, but clear visibility on the glacier. We put our crampons on - and were they needed! Rock hard snow. We steadily gained the final 300 m to the ridge at the top of the glacier at 2600 m. At one point, about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way up the glacier, a very long crevasse threatened to cut us off, but we were able to avoid a long back-track by finding a point where we could step across a narrow section. We had lunch on the col that divides the Wahianoa and the Whangaehu valleys. Daytime cloud built up quite rapidly and the view became rather intermittent. We removed our crampons and took little time to reach the summit of Mitre. We headed down the east ridge, dislodging a fair quantity of rock in the process. The short section at the transition between the Mitre ridge and the traverse ridge to Rangipo required a bit of care. We made good time down to the hut, reaching it at about 3:30 and about 5 minutes before a party of 10 or so from AUTC.

When we reached the carpark at about 4 pm, we had rather wet feet after wading the river for about 20-30 minutes. Due to little rainfall over previous days, we didn't even get our thighs wet! The others had not long returned ahead of us, and were preparing for the trip home.

As usual, it was a very enjoyable experience for everyone and the company matched fittingly. We arrived back at Ashhurst at approx. 5:30 pm.

Attendance: Nigel Scott, Paul Murphy, Malcolm Parker, Monica Canltwell, Kevin Pearce, Lesley Findlay, Dale Lockart, David and Maree Gomes, and Vanessa Johnson.

SUNRISE - WAIPAWA LOOP - 30th April by Peter Burgess

We left the car park at the start of the track at 9:45 am, carefully avoiding large fresh cowpats. I hoped that the filthy beasts watching malevolently from a few yards away would resist the temptation to wipe their backsides on my white car this time! The forecast was for rain and wind, but so far the tops were clear, so we kept our fingers crossed.

The track up to Sunrise Hut is well maintained and graded all the way and we climbed the 700 m to the hut in 2 hours at a leisurely pace with a couple of stops and some bird and plant spotting on the way. Fearing that the looming clouds would descend, Warren led us racing up to the top of the hill overlooking the hut where we sat and admired the view, which included the rather impressive scree slope which we would later be descending.

We decided to continue to the highest point on our route (about 1400 m) before stopping for lunch with a fine view to the north overlooking one of the tributaries of the Maropea River. It got rather cold as we ate and in fact began to sleet. This was not too uncomfortable, however, as we were sheltered from the wind.

After continuing along the ridge west for a short way we scrambled down to reach the top of the scree slope on the south side of the ridge. The scree was particularly nice and fine with only the occasional firm patch and a slight course correction required about half way. Even the least experienced scree muncher in the party was asking for more at the bottom!

There followed some scrambling in and around a stream which lead quite steeply down to the Waipawa Forks Lodge, which is a bit more basic than Sunrise Hut without the gas and with water from the stream, rather than a tank. By this stage as we looked back, the tops had become obscured by clouds and the sleet had turned to a steady drizzle, however, we counted ourselves lucky to have had good views from the ridge with relatively light winds.

The lower part of the Waipawa required numerous crossings but was straight forward with only one member of the party managing to fall in, after boasting of how her feet were still dry! We arrived back at the car a little over 6 hours after setting off which we concluded was just a comfortable length for a day tramp.

The party consisted of Anna, Hannah, Kristina, Peter and our able leader Warren.

MT ASPIRING

Bruce Van-B should have a good hold on the high achiever award this year. He and a Massey colleague climbed Aspiring late last month. Route was via French ridge, and the Ramp. Good weather was hampered by hard ice and heaps of sastrugi on the ascent. (The experiences gained on all those Egmont ascents must have come in handy, Bruce?) The climb turned out to be protracted with an overnight bivy without sleeping bags at 2500 m before descending off the Ramp back to Colin Todd. The return to civilization proved to be protracted as well. An attempt to descend off Bevan Col had to be abandoned, and French Ridge used eventually but with some unexpected and involved crevasse problems. Well done guys. More details - pending - watch this space - slides later in the year I am reliably informed.

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This winter, Mountain Equipment, will be hosting an adventure lecture series by bringing some of this country's top outdoor professionals to Palmerston North. The talks on travel and adventure will be entertaining and informative, with refreshments being provided at the end of each.

Tickets to each lecture will be available from Mountain Equipment. A charge of \$5 per person will contribute towards the cost of the speaker and venue. Bookings are essential as seating will be limited.

The first speaker of the series will be Charlie Hobbs, who will be talking about Antarctica. Charlie currently has his own mountain guiding operation in the Mt Cook region. His last three summers have been spent in Antarctica guiding private expeditions and running the Antarctic programme's survival school. Charlie's talk will be held on Wednesday May 31st, starting at a time of 7:30 pm. Tickets will need to be purchased (or recovered) by Friday May 26th as door sales will not be available.

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT Ltd.
14 The Square Ph 359-2162

From Hilary and Russell at Mountain Equipment

Hi folks! This is a brief piece to bring you up to date with the latest happenings at Mountain Equipment.

Wilderness clothing have released their new styles of rainwear, fleece, Geothermal underwear and accessories with some styles, the only change has been the colour range, but something like the Reflex Mountain Jacket has been changed quite dramatically. All the waterproof Reflex jackets have had changes to the hood area, and some of the pockets changed too. If you want a new jacket, Wilderness have a very good range to suit your needs.

MSR stoves have changed slightly in that they now have a "shaker jet", which is a moving needle under the jet itself. When the stove gets moved vigorously, the jet gets cleaned - less fuss and maintenance and more reliability. The very multi-fuelled XGKII stove now has different arms on it which are more stable than the previous model so when you go tramping with 15 others, those large billies are more stable in use.

Fairydown's fleece clothing and Goretex jackets have also been revised with new styles catalogue available soon. Good styles and colours means these will be popular so if we've run out of a particular style or size, ask us to get it for you.

We have a new range of thermal underwear in stock. Known by the name of the fibre, the Thermax range (made by the Thermatech people) consists of a short sleeve and long sleeve crew neck top, a short longjohn, and normal longjohns. The Thermax fibre is hollow so it holds heat very well, and it also wicks moisture very well, so if you tend to sweat a lot, this should be more comfortable than polypropylene. The fibre is quite soft to the touch, and very easy to look after.

For those very young tramping club members (6 months to 3 years) who want to go out into the hills we now have a MACPAC possum baby carrier available for hire. If you are thinking of buying one, then try it out beforehand! Hireage is \$5 per day of use and a \$50 bond (refundable). You may need to book ahead for this. On the same topic of younger members, Wilderness are now doing longjohns and tops in their Geothermal range in an extra small size.

Finally, we'd like to introduce some of the new faces at Mountain Equipment to you. You should know Hilary and Russell, who are there practically all the time, but do you know Matt, Kate, Kieran, Preston, Simon or Peter? Between the six of them there is a lot of knowledge of rock climbing, tramping, kayaking, mountaineering, diving, skiing and other outdoor activities. If you need advice just ask! That's all for now from the team at Mountain Equipment.

