



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - August 1998

*****THIS ISSUE*****

NEWS:

**Special deal at the Massey Wall, a Moose Book review,
and words of wisdom from Wales**

TRIP REPORTS:

**Tunupo - Iron Gates, Baldy, Red Rocks
and Snowcraft One (without the snow)**

CLUB NIGHTS

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------|
| AUGUST 13 | “Torres del Paine, Patagonia” | Sarah Lebermann |
| AUGUST 27 | “A Physio’s advice for trampers” | Wayne Wolfsbauer |
| SEPTEMBER 3 | Committee meeting | Tony Gates’ place |
| SEPTEMBER 10 | “Canada tales” | Warren Soufflot |
| SEPTEMBER 24 | “South Island off the beaten track” | Harley Betts |

Club nights are held for all club members and visitors on the second and last Thursday of each month at the **Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North**. Please note that at this year’s AGM it was decided that **all club nights now commence at 7:45 pm**, winter or summer. The PNTMC Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month.

At the club night: Please sign your name in the visitors book. There is a door fee of 50c which includes supper.

UP AND COMING TRIPS & EVENTS

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 trumper would be expected to cover the graded trips in about the following times:

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs

Medium (M): 5-6 hrs

Fit (F): about 8 hrs

Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

(T) refers to technical trips requiring special skills and/or gear.

Beginners should start with Easy Grade trips.

Aug 13 Thursday trampers
 Neville Gray 357-2768

Aug 13 Club night: “Torres del Paine, Patagonia” Sarah Lebermann

Sarah did some trekking in this stunning area in Argentina last year & will be showing some slides. Other than that, our man on the spot (club night organiser Laurence Gatehouse) tells me they speak Welsh and play rugby in Argentina. Pretty good recommendations without the tramping?

Aug 15-16 Mokai-Wakelings F
 Dave & Duncan Grant 357-8269/354-8252
Depart 6.00am. From behind Taihape we will head up and along the Mokai Patea range to Wakelings hut on Saturday (exact route depending on snow conditions). On Sunday we will come out via Maroepa Forks. A chance to stretch your legs in the NW Ruahines.

Aug 16 Rangī Hut E
 Stuart Hubbard 356-8782

Depart 8-30am. A popular club day trip in the mid-western Ruahines. A maximum 2-hour jaunt up through the bush & a very picturesque arched footbridge to Rangī Hut, set among the tussock with great views across to Ruapehu. A good opportunity to check out the snow too! Latest reports are that access across the slip is reasonably good, but apparently the gas heater has been removed from the hut, so rug up!

Aug 20 Thursday trampers
 Sue & Lawson Pither 357-3033

Aug 22-23 Snowcraft 3 I, F/T

Andy Backhouse 353-0774

Bruce Van Brunt 328-4761

This will be held at the MTSC hut at Whakapapa again, which is a short distance from the road. In this course more advanced techniques will be presented for steeper slopes of ice or snow, use of ice anchors, and multiple anchor belays. Indoor sessions will again be used for instruction on topics such as use of avalanche transceivers, basic alpine rescue, etc.

If there is sufficient interest, we will have another Tuesday evening, this time at the City Rock Climbing Gym at 38a Grey St to practise more complex rope and belay systems, at 7pm on an evening prior to this weekend. Prerequisite: SC2

Aug 23 North Range Rd E
 Katherine Farquhar 356-8295

Depart 8-30am. This is an Easy or Medium trip (depending on people's preferences) close to town. The walk follows a 4WD track along the top of the range back of Palmy, with good views weather permitting. It will be necessary to check road access with the windfarm development closer to the day.

Aug 27 Thursday trampers
 Pam Wilson 357-6247

Aug 27 Club night: “A physio’s advice for trampers” Wayne Wolfsbauer

Wayne Wolfsbauer, a physio at Palmerston North hospital (and a former club member), will give a talk on those stretches and warm-ups you should be doing before and after tramping. This will be followed by a question and answer session.

Aug 29-30 Mitre Peak M,T
 Tony Gates 357-7439

Depart after brekky Sat morning. Originally planned to crampon to the top of Mitre Peak, the highest peak in the Tararua Ranges, but it looks like it might be a stroll in the tussock (but who knows). Will be prepared for what ever the weather gods provide us with.

There is a choice hut at Mitre Flats, about 3 hrs in from the road end. We could stay there Saturday Night, but I would prefer to camp out. I would like to investigate some of the delightful forest that is found on the slopes of Mitre Peak-Baldy

area, and have a good look at the Waingawa Valley.

Aug 30 Blue Range (combo) M
Liz Flint 356-7654

Depart 8am. A combined trip with MTSC. A nice stroll up through bush in the eastern Tararuas. Blue Range Hut is nestled in the bush but a rock outcrop nearby provides a wonderful lunch spot with views out across the ranges.

September MSC Outdoor Training Scheme
All Phil Luders 329-2558
See article under "Notices"

Sept 3 Thursday trampers
June Sowerby 355-2690

Sept 3 Committee meeting
Tony's place

Sept 5-6 Ruahine Classic F,T
Derek Sharp 326-8178

Derek is looking for a leader for this trip, but still give him a call if you are interested in this regular but classic annual PNTMC tramp. The plan this year is to follow the popular Howletts-Sawtooth Ridge-Waterfall Hut route & come out to the end of the Sunrise Hut track. Or maybe out via the west side.

Sept 6 Longview Hut E/M
Chris Saunders 358-4899

Note: Now on Sunday, not Saturday as indicated on the Trip Card. Leaves PN 7am. A leisurely daytrip that extends above the bushline for great views across the upper Pohangina valley to the Ngamoko Range. Longview is a nice little hut for a lunchtime brew, with gas cookers. Options for a short jaunt across Pohangina saddle to Otumore for views from the western side.

Sept 10 Thursday trampers
John Stantiall 354-5521

**Sept 10 Club night: "Canada Tales"
Warren Soufflot**

Club member Warren took a winter trip to the Vancouver/Banff area and did a bit of cruising, touring and skiing. He took a bunch of slides of this highly photogenic area and will talk on what he saw.

Sept 12-13 Totara Flats E
Mick Leyland 358-3183

Leave Saturday 7am. An easy trip from the Holdsworth carpark into the Waiohine Valley in the south-eastern Tararuas. Good tracks, no big hills, and a well-appointed Category-2 hut at Totara Flats. Come and celebrate Mick's return to good health!

Sept 12-13-14 Climbing Whakapapa F,T
Terry Crippen 356-3588

Depart 6pm Friday night and walk up to the NZ Alpine Club hut above the Whakapapa ski field. This is the opportunity for you to put into practice all those skills you have learnt on the Club's Snowcraft instruction programme. Lots of good climbing to be done on the Pinnacles as well as the various faces, gullies and ridges further up. Bring (borrow) lots of climbing gear, team up with a climbing buddy, and have a go. We have places booked for Fri, Sat and Sun night so you can have either two or three days up there. Hut Fees per night \$8 NZAC members, \$18 non NZAC members.

Sept 17-18 Thursday trampers
Peter Caver 354-4479

Sept 19-20 Jumbo-Powell M
Graham Roberts 357-8567

A good medium circuit in the eastern Tararuas. Up the Atiwhakatu Valley to Jumbo Hut for the night (another roomy well-appointed hut with gas cookers, just above the bushline). Then up on the tops for great views on the ridge route south to Mt Holdsworth & back down to the carpark. May be reversed if weather forecast is better for Saturday.

Sept 20 Ngauruhoe climb M,T
Peter Wiles 358-6894

Leave PN at 5am for the Mangatepopo road end, so that we can reach the summit by lunchtime - weather conditions permitting. Ngauruhoe is a very good vantage point to view the Tongariro-Ruapehu complex. If you have been on Snowcraft 1 or 2, this would be a good exercise in walking on snow. Snow conditions on the upper part of the peak can vary between hard and soft, so crampons will be needed. For those inclined, the bum-sliding opportunities on the descent are possibly unrivalled in the North Island.

Sept 24 Thursday trampers
Phil Pearce 354-6687

**Sept 24 Club night: "South Island off the beaten track"
Harley Betts**

Some pretty pictures, a bit of a narrative, and rudimentary directions to a selection of South Island places that are well worth visiting and relatively easy to get to, yet free of the usual hordes of tourists (if not sandflies). Most of these

places, in addition to having loads of photographic potential, are excellent for short walks and camping out. Come along and see why we should all be living on the Mainland.

Trip leaders:

Please discuss with the trips co-ordinator (Terry Crippen 356-3588, or Liz Flint 356-7654), as soon as possible, if there is any doubt that you will be unable to run your trip as scheduled. This is so that alternatives can be arranged, put in the newsletter, or passed on at club night.

Trip participants:

If you are interested in going on a trip, please advise the leader **at least three days** in advance.

Trips often leave from the Foodtown carpark in Fergusson Street unless the leader arranges otherwise.

A charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip, the amount depending on the distance travelled and vehicles used. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance.

For general information on the scheduled or alternative tramps please contact one of the trip co-ordinators Terry Crippen (356-3588) or Liz Flint (356-7654).

***** OVERDUE TRIPS *****

Enquiries to: Mick Leyland (358-3183), Liz Flint (356-7654), or Laurence Gatehouse (356-5805)

NOTICES

FROM THE EDITOR

All kinds of articles, whether trip reports, interesting information & anecdotes, book reviews, or even a product review, are welcome for inclusion in this newsletter. If it is a small article, hand-written is okay (deliver to John Phillips, 87 Victoria Avenue) but if handwriting is all you can do, don't let it put you off even large articles.

If you *do* have access to a computer, it does make my job a bit easier if larger articles are on disc. However, more and more people are e-mailing articles to me. If you have the facilities at home or at work, this is a very quick & convenient way to do it - my work e-mail address is:

PHILLIPS@MWRC.GOV.NZ.

I use Microsoft Word Version 7.0. If you use any other software, give me a ring on 357-9009 (work) or 358-1874 (home) and I may be able to indicate whether it is compatible or not. If in doubt, try sending any files as an ".RTF" (Rich Text Format) file, which can sometimes be easily converted from one software format to another, or

the safest bet is to just cut-and-paste your text directly into your e-mail message.

I can also scan photos for inclusion in the newsletter. If you get photos printed off soon after your trip, please consider submitting them as it can add that added dimension of interest that only photos can!

Please note the deadline for anything to go in each month's issue is the FIRST THURSDAY of the month.

OOPS - PINK HELP INTENTION FORMS

Terry
These were to come with the other material in the June newsletter but didn't arrive in time from NZMSC. But there are plenty of them at club night if you need one or more when doing your intentions details for any trip you are leading.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Nigel Scott, our Taranaki club member, changes address & phone number again. Latest is:

236 Inaha Rd
RD11 Hawera
Ph: (06) 274-8401

OUTDOOR TRAINING SCHEME - A course being offered by the Mountain Safety Council in SEPTEMBER:

This course is designed for people who would like to experience the outdoors, but who lack the necessary knowledge, skills or confidence to do so; or who already go into the bush with others and would like to develop their own skills further. Includes a series of evening talks at QE College throughout September, and a weekend trip away. Cost \$30. Contact Phil Luders (06) 329-2558.

CLUB LOGO & NEWSLETTER NAME

It has been decided to give the idea of a newsletter name a miss, but we have adopted an upgraded version of the existing club logo, which you may have noticed on the front page of this issue! Thanks to Laurence Gatehouse for the design. (Yes, contrary to the article in the July newsletter, it was in fact Laurence, not Heather, who put all the hard work into re-hashing the logo. Apologies Laurence!)

CLIMBING ACTIVITIES

No Snow? Getting low altitude sickness? Flat ground hurting your feet? You need to get climbing even if its "only" at a climbing wall. Club members are reminded that PNTMC has a special agreement with the Massey Recreation Centre whereby they can get a season pass to use the climbing wall at the university. The pass costs \$55-00/season. If you join now then its only \$25-00 for a "half season" ending in February. The wall is a good place to stretch and unwind (and then pull muscles), and these prices are very competitive. For more information on membership contact Sam Lamb at the Massey Rec. Centre 350-5080. Be sure to tell her that you are a PNTMC member.

GORE WINDSTOPPER FLEECE

A rave(?) review by Heather Gatehouse
A few weeks ago a lass from "Gore Industries" gave a talk to the Manawatu club night, explaining the history of Gore products, the development of Goretex and the step from that to Gore Windstopper fleece. The final message of the talk was "I'm leaving this Windstopper jacket with Mountain Equipment for you all to give it a free trial".

The difference between Gore windstopper fleece and other wind-bloc fleeces is that windstopper uses the Gore membrane at its core, while the others have a tightly woven fabric in their centre. The Gore membrane is said to make Gore windstopper wind proof, while still being very breathable, light weight and flexible. They also say it is water resistant but not waterproof. They did a demonstration with two gloves, one windstopper, one normal fleece, and a device that blew air through solid carbon dioxide to give a very cold breeze which blew straight through the normal glove but the windstopper gloved hand was fine.

I thought I would check out what windstopper had to offer against all the joys the Tararuas cared to throw at it. I borrowed the jacket for the Field Hut/Table Top trip (9 August). It feels very strange saying this, but, sadly the weather was fantastic, glorious sunshine and brilliant views! Not much to challenge the jacket, but a wonderful trip all the same. What I can say for the jacket is that it feels very much like wearing a normal fleece - its not stiff or bulky, and its as breathable as normal fleece. In the odd seconds when there was some wind, it did seem to stop those freezing blasts from sailing straight through, but without some sustained effort from the heavens it was a bit difficult to tell! It did seem to have some serious potential.

I'd really encourage you all to give it a go. I know that Kieren is planning to take it down south for a short trip, so maybe he'll find out more. The jacket's a medium (not outrageously big for me; only a little snug on Laurence) and is a rather odd mustardy brown colour. All it requires is a \$50 dollar deposit with Mountain Equipment (write a cheque and they'll tear it up when you return the jacket) and its yours for a free trial. From the looks of their hire book, it isn't being used much, so go for it and give it a thrash for a weekend. See what it'll take!!

'O-E' LETTER FROM AN EX-MEMBER

Warren,

I am writing just to say that could you please withdraw me from the PNTMClub for the time being (to save on newsletters etc) as I am still overseas. I have done some tramping in the Adirondacks in the USA, then Scotland and next week Poland. Hope all is going well your end (if the trips are like what I've read). Thanks.

Nick Pringle.

ANOTHER PHOTO COMPETITION!

This is by way of some advanced notice. MUAC are planning an inter-club photo competition, possibly with some commercial sponsorship. It is to be held on Monday 28th Sept 8pm in Massey AH2. Could all the finalists in the club photo competition and any one else with good photos please think about entering. This especially includes those photos that have done well in previous club competitions.

The categories (with a separate section in each for prints and slides) are:

- 1) Flora and fauna
- 2) People and places
- 3) Alpine
- 4) Landscape
- 5) Action

There are some cracking photos out there so lets get a bit of recognition for our lens skills. Further details, incl. how to enter, in this newsletter closer to the date.

NAVIGATION - WELSH STYLE

Heather Gatehouse was sent this little gem from her cousin Dewi Morris, back in the old country (his birthplace is Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain to be exact!)

See this layered sandstone in the short mountain grass. Place your hand on it palm downward. See where the summer sun rises and where it stands at noon. Direct your index finger between them. Spread your fingers not widely. You now hold this place in your hand.

The six rivers rise in the plateau towards your wrist. The first river now called the Mynwy flows from the outside edge of your thumb. The second river, now called the Olchon flows between your thumb and the first finger, to join the Mynwy at the top of your thumb. The third river now called Honddu, flows between your first and second fingers and then curves to join the Mynwy. The fourth river now the Gywrne Fawr, flows between your second and third fingers and then curves the other way, south, to join the fifth river, now called the Grywne Fechan, that has been flowing between your third and outside finger. The sixth river, now called Rhiangoll, flows from the outside edge of your outside finger.

This is the hand of the Black Mountains, the shape first learned. Your thumb is Crib y Gath. Your

first finger is Curum and Hateral. Your second finger is Ffawyddog, with Tal y Cefn and Bal Mawr at its knuckles. Your third finger is Gadair Fawr. Your outside finger is Allt Mawr, from Llysiau to Cerrig Calch and its nail is Crug Hywel. On the high plateau on the back of your hand are Twyn y Llech and Twmpa, Rhos Dirrion and Y Das. You hold the shapes and the names.

Your fingers are long and skeletal, curving on themselves, and at their edges and on the plateau there are steeply glaciated cwms and cross valleys, red waterfalls and steeply gouged water courses.

The hand of the Black Mountains. From a distance, in good light whaleback ridges are blue. Under cloud they are grey cloudbanks. But from within they are many colours: olive green under sunlight: darker green with the patches of summer bracken: green with a pink tinge when there are young leaves on the winberries: dark with the heather out of flower: purple briefly in late summer: russet with autumn bracken: when at dawn after the rain the eastern slopes can be red: pale gold in the dead winter bracken against the white snow. Yet black, a cellular black under storm cloud: a pitted honeycomb of darkness within darkness.

Press your fingers close on this lichened stone, with this stone and grass, with this red earth, this place was received and made and remade. Its generations are distinct but all suddenly present.

[From Raymond Williams "People Of The Black Mountains" (Paladin 1989)]

BOOK REVIEW by Tony Gates
 "A Wild Moose Chase" by Ken Tustin (1998)
 Wild South Books, Dunedin

Ken Tustin is a well known New Zealand wild animal ecologist, specialising in studies of population dynamics of red deer and thar. He has worked for the Government, and as a private consultant, on a number of animal projects that seem to attract the public's eye. This latest book, which mirrors a recently released TV documentary, documents research carried out by the author (and others) at irregular intervals over the past thirty years searching for the remnant moose heard of Dusky Sound, Fiordland. It makes an excellent read.

Tustin provides a fascinating insight into an almost mythical aspect of Fiordland's history, where wild animal populations have played a dominant part. Tustin also provides a graphic, at times humorous picture of life in the Fiordland bush, waterways, and airways. It is a well written and presented book, with good photographs (except, that is, of the moose itself- well, use your imagination there). Tustin's scientific background adds credibility to a subject that is usually written about by non-academic people. He searches for moose for months on end, and although he cannot provide a clear photograph of one, he provides concrete evidence of their existence today. His search is continually frustrated, and you are left with the feeling that a moose is really waiting around the next tree. On one occasion, a tree mounted video camera triggered by a sensor had a time lapse of a five seconds or so from triggering to when film was taken. A few deer were seen strolling past the camera, then some scenes of just forest, as the camera had obviously been triggered, but the culprit not caught on film. The next day, moose footprints were clearly seen in front of the camera! The author actually had many hi-tech gadgets to try to capture a moose on film, but there were always problems, for example, with keas destroying vital photographic equipment

Moose are a very secretive animal, significantly more difficult to hunt than your ordinary deer, and the people that have spent most time in the area, ie. helicopter pilots, deer hunters, and boaties, do not usually go about their business in a quiet manner. Fiordland terrain, vegetation and weather does not easily give in to the desires of people to explore the area, and the scale of the countryside is somewhat intimidating. These facts go a long way to explaining why no one has seen a moose (or owned up to seeing a moose) since 1952.

As a keen deer hunter, I am naturally fascinated in the idea of a 1000 kg wild animal with antlers 2 m wide roaming Fiordland. The Government, and "greenies" may not like this idea, but I believe that the New Zealand heritage is richer when it includes wild animals that people like (and some make a living from). Tustin fills the readers with awe at these remarkable animals. From an ecological point of view, it is incredible that the herd has survived against all odds, and that there are still moose in Fiordland today (that's true!). I note that some wild animals arouse disproportionately large amount of public concern, for example a few mouldy old Canada Geese on Lake Ellesmere, or a few lice ridden horses at Waiouru. Do moose deserve similar? I think public attention has a lot to do with how visible the animals are to the TV cameras, not what they are. Perhaps no publicity is good publicity moose?

TRIP REPORTS

TUNUPO - IRON GATES

6-7 June

Terry Crippen

This annual trip was a bit earlier in the year than previously so there was a lack of snow on the Ngamoko Range. Fine weather was forecasted so that made up for the lack of snow as we headed down from the freshly gravelled car park, then up the long ridge onto Tunupo arriving there bang on lunch time. A wee norwester had sprung up so we proceeded north along the ridge a bit, looking for a sunny but sheltered lunch spot. Naturally such a spot is hard to find this time of the year on the tops since both the nor wester and the sun come from the same direction this time of the day. Oh well, we found a half pie spot. This flattish section of the Ngamoko range is quite cruisy, with good vistas all around. However not having any firm snow cover meant that the spongy alpine

moss fields tended to absorb and waste ones walking effort.

Along to the 3 steel poles. Good views to the north, with a thin cover of snow on the Te Hekenga Taumataeomekura ridge (hope the spelling is correct - the name was on a fold of my map and its worn though). This looked inviting but would have to wait till another time. So a sharp turn left then along the lumpy ridge to the start of the cut track though the leatherwood. Down though the forest with early evening approaching we arrived at the hut just in time to get sorted out before needing to get the torches and candles out for cooking grub. Initially we had the hut to ourselves and as it was so warm we didn't bother with the fire. But it was not to be, four bods arrived after dark with a bit of an emergency on their hands. One of them had taken

a fall on the slip coming up the sidle track - gashed head and leg, stuffed shoulder and neck. Peter and Ron checked out the blood and guts while I got hot drinks for the wounded. The other three in their party proceeded with smoke therapy - ie getting the fire going and smoking us out! So Peter, Ron and I opted for the bottom bunks. We informed the wounded that if needed Dave's day trip party would arrive on the Sunday to carry him out - under Ron, Peter and my guidance.

Come Sunday, the wounded, apart from being very stiff and sore, said he would be able to hobble out under his own steam. We met Dave's party where the sidle track drops to the Oroua - opposite the old Tunupo Camp site and had a natter before plodding on to Heritage Lodge for an early lunch. The norwester of yesterday had now proceed to produce some ominous clouds round the tops. Back to the car and a flat tyre, and a discussion as to whether the sharp thing was a nail, clout or tack.

Us three were Peter Darragh, Ron deRose, Terry Crippen.

THE DEER HUNTERS

5 July by Tony Gates

This was a medium-ish tramp in the depths of winter to Mitre Flats, which is a favourite spot for many of us. Two car loads of us travelled light and fast and, with a pre-dawn start, were able to complete the trip before dark. Its a lovely part of the eastern Tararuas, and I'm sure that it deserves many more visits. Excellent access here to the high tussock tops, and some gorgeous swimming holes during summer.

Five of us set off to Mitre Flats while the two faithful drivers arranged cars at each road end. Weather was overcast, with the promise of sunshine later. It was a reasonable two and a half hours of sweat to Mitre Flats Hut, made somewhat more interesting by inspecting the on-site Pelton Wheel (for power generation) near the last farm house.

ENGINEERING IN THE BUSH

Graham Peters inspects a Pelton Wheel at Blake Stream, en route to Mitre Flats. This mini hydro scheme provides power to several lifestyle homes. Two high pressure jets of water hit the silver bowls, spinning the turbine and generating power. The shed is full of truck batteries.

Then the deer hunters on the trip got all excited when three deer crashed off the track. Other wildlife observed included several Kereru (wood pigeons), and other native birds. They say there are trout in the river too. I said that it was a favourite spot, well, there is gas at the hut to cook on, and no need to get wet feet (although crossing the river saves you maybe 15 minutes tramping).

The forest on the slopes of Baldy was lovely. The track climbs and descends in that frustrating Tararua way, but was a good track, so we made rapid, although somewhat sweaty, progress to the saddle below Baldy. Then it was a further 2 ½ hours of reasonably rapid tramping to reach Holdsworth Lodge. The track is an impressive (and no doubt expensive) trail of board walks, bridges, and gravel down there. I guess DOC needs to satisfy the thousands of users that go there.

Trip members were; David Grant (leader), Duncan Grant, Graham Peters, Janet Wilson, Tony Gates, Colin Giddy, and Hamish August.

RED ROCKS (WELLINGTON) - PART I

11 July 1998 by Warren Wheeler

Three of us decided to take up Lyn's offer and stay overnight with her and Brent at their bungalow in Hateitei. We left PN at 8.00 am to have plenty of time for an Absolutely Positively Wellington Big City experience - shops, cafes, dragon-boat racing and Te Papa. Well, we missed out on the dragon-boating (that's held earlier in the year) but managed the rest. First we needed morning tea at a cafe...dear me, the problem of over-choice - Bagels on concrete tables? Nah, a bit stark, and no carrot cake. Some posh place in an alley? Nope. Toilets closed. The Matterhorn? Naff atmosphere, nobody there, more of a bar really. Krazy Lounge? Marvellous food, busy, and eclectic with quirky decor including a couple of little angels doing a down-trou. By this time it was well past lunch-time and we had traversed the entire down town area: from Bivouac on The Terrace (long-johns and sox for Warren), along

Willis Street and through Mainly Tramping, Kiwi Clothing (an oilskin rainhat for Neil), any shoe or clothing shop with SALE (tried plenty on but no luck there for Warren), the Cookie Shop (YUMMMY nibbles), and on to Kathmandu on Manners Street (a polar-fleece shirt for Neil), Gordon's (nice and pricey), and Second Wind (ditto - no skis for Terry though), whew....Power Shopping, obviously more practice is necessary to keep in shape. We had amused ourselves en route by little bets to see who would spot someone they knew first (won by Warren and Penny Soufflot when they tooted us in Willis Street), and whether there were any Uppers in the Wellington directory since there were Downers (no there weren't, though Terry challenged the results on the grounds that we were looking in the The Telephone Book and not the Telephone Directory. Fair enuff, not). I can recommend the Crazy Lounge in Cuba Street - great selection and truly mountainous lemon meringue pies. After lunch we wandered over to Te Papa to challenge any pre-conceptions and see if we couldn't learn something. Well, we were more than a little impressed - did you know that there are 150 native earthworms, the largest is up to 1 metre long, and they are all "milk-worms" having luminescent milky stuff inside them. Did you really? It certainly is not like any old crusty museum - its a Voyage of Discovery - partly because the spaces are not very well labelled and you just wander in, jumbly-fashion, for yet another "huh, that's fairly interesting" experience. Outside, the bush area complete with swing-bridge is thriving nicely and overall the Place is well worth a visit. Or two. Or three. Its free, you see. By now dusk was creeping in so after stocking up at New World we ducked through Victoria Tunnel (forget to toot our horn, but), and staggered up the zig-zag path to Lyn's right on dark. Our hostess showed us to our lodgings in the basement boudoirerie (complete with en suite) and we settled in over beer, wine and snacks of pate and cheese before a huge pasta meal with salad, followed by ice cream and cardamom fruit cake. We stayed up for the rugby but didn't bother turning the TV on in the end. After all, we had a Big Day out tomorrow. Thanks again for having us at your place Lyn and Brent, and thanks for the Absolutely Positively Wellington hospitality.

We three Retail Therapy nerds were Terry, Neil and Warren.

RED ROCKS - PART II

12 July by Duncan Hedderley

Two more Palmerstonians (Monica Caldwell and Duncan Hedderley) joined Lyn, Brent, Terry, Warren, Neil and Sarah at the gates to the Ohiro Bay quarry (on the southern coast of the Wellington peninsula) on Sunday morning. We left two cars there, and in the other two cars drove up (and I do mean *up* - those Wellington roads are *steep!*) to the ECNZ wind turbine above Brooklyn. The views over Wellington and the turbine (presumably similar to those soon going in to the Tararua windfarm) are worth a look before heading out along the service road to the air traffic control radar a couple of ridges over. The wind was moderate, but chilly, so there was a fair amount of scrabbling in packs for gloves in the first 5-10 minutes. There were good views of the Kaikouras (as well as opportunities for 'soccer ball' jokes) at the radar. Treating the signposts put up by Wellington City Council with appropriate scepticism, we followed the road along to the trig point. The wind had dropped, and with even better views and sunshine, the trig made a popular lunch point. From the trig we turned coastwards, and were immediately reminded that having driven up 500m above sea level, we would have to walk down it again if we wanted to get to the beach. Having reached the bottom of the gully, there was a stream to cross (! I come on a social walk in the nation's capital, and there's **still** a stream to wade across!) followed by another ridge to climb up. The views were still impressive, and by now people were getting quite warm.

The decent from that ridge to the beach was again a good path, but steep (something to do with the slope of the strata, according to Terry). From there it was a short walk to where the seals were basking. The walk back from the seal colony to the road access (at the quarry gates) is obviously quite popular, even late on a winter afternoon, but fortunately we weren't parked in. A good end to a good day.

Thanks to Lyn Murphy, for co-ordinating it all; and Brent <Oops, didn't catch his surname - John, could you check with Sarah or Terry?> Terry Crippen, Warren Wheeler, Neil Campbell, Sarah Stratton and Monica Caldwell for good company

SNOWCRAFT ONE

18-19 July

by Matthew Reid

Snowcraft One was held on Saturday 18th July at Turoa on Mount Ruapehu, and continued briefly at Cityrock climbing gym on Sunday. It was felt that because of the lack of snow it would not be worth staying up on the mountain so we set out early on Saturday morning. Despite having to climb to the Giants Cafe for decent snow there was enough around not to need to continue on to the glacier.

We did some self arresting with ice axes - by the end of the day attempting the backwards-headfirst-upside-down-eyes-closed version on the icy snow. There were a few painful knuckles and more than a few bruises on elbows and knees. We also practised some excellent crampon work, climbing up and down steep slopes (probably 35 degrees but felt like 90).

Of course debriefing on Saturday evening was held at Mountain Kebabs and continued on Sunday at Cityrock. There was general agreement

that the weekend had been very worthwhile and that the instructors were to be commended. A few sore muscles were retsretched on the climbing wall and then we all parted ways.

We were: Andy Backhouse, Bruce van Brunt, Terry Crippen - instructors; Chris - trainee instructor; and Matthew, Sarah, Sarah, Kath, Nicola, Michelle, Mariska, and Luis - snowcrafters.

FLASHBACK

February 1997, Mid Waiohine Hut, central Tararuas. These jokers claim to have tramped over Jumbo, Angle Knob, and MacGregor spur to the Waiohine River, and floated down the river on their tubes! It looks like Tony Gates, Nigel Barrett, and Warren Soufflot to me.

Current Membership List as at 1 August 1998:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Rose Aston | 521a Church Street | 356-4595 | Palmerston North |
| Andy & Zoe Backhouse / Hart | 50 Hillcrest Drive | 353-0774 | Palmerston North |
| Alan Bee | 124 Tremaine Avenue | 354-9180 | Palmerston North |
| Wayne Beggs | 67 Savage Crescent | 358-8546 | Palmerston North |
| Wayne Bennett | 33 Humber Street | 354-8029(w) | Palmerston North |
| Harley Betts | 658 Pahiatua Track, RD1 | 355-4737 | Palmerston North |
| Peter Burgess | 4 / 41 Lancaster Street | 354-3533 | Palmerston North |
| Neil Campbell | 7 Milverton Avenue | 359-5048 | Palmerston North |
| Monica Cantwell | Innerwell Lane (RD 10) | 326-9691 | Palmerston North |
| Marion Carey | 7 Kingston Street | 358-2544 | Palmerston North |
| Christine Cheyne | 11 Pahiatua Street | 356-3588 | Palmerston North |
| Bill Cohen | 74 Buick Crescent | 353-6537 | Palmerston North |
| Pauline Coy | 57 Fairs Road | 357-0122 | Palmerston North |
| Terry Crippen | 11 Pahiatua Street | 356-3588 | Palmerston North |
| Peter Darragh | 118 Denbigh Street | 323-4498 | Feilding |
| Margaret Easton | P O Box 5299 | 357-8645 | Palmerston North |
| Tricia Eder | 57 Fiars Road | 357-0122 | Palmerston North |
| Kathryn Farquhar | 2/40 Fitchett Street | 356-8295 | Palmerston North |
| Liz Flint | 43 Long Melford Road | 356-7654 | Palmerston North |

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|------------------------------|---|---------------|------------------|
| Laurence & Heather Gatehouse | 12 Galway Avenue | 356-5805 | Palmerston North |
| Tony Gates | 24 Springdale Crescent | 357-7439 | Palmerston North |
| David Grant | 124 Buick Crescent | 357-8269 | Palmerston North |
| Duncan Grant | 41 Savage Crescent | 354-8252 | Palmerston North |
| Nigel Green | 2 Walkers Road, Rd 7 | 354-4823 | Palmerston North |
| Duncan Hedderley | 7 Keiller Place | 355-2523 | Palmerston North |
| Dave Henwood | 142 Wyndham Street | 326-8892 | Ashhurst |
| Michael Hewett | 35 Long Melford Road | 354-6853 | Palmerston North |
| Nigel Hough | 32 St Johns Avenue | 355-5049 | Palmerston North |
| Stuart Hubbard | 22 Union Street | 356-8782 | Palmerston North |
| Patrick Janssen | 27 Rainforth Street | 356-3116 | Palmerston North |
| Leal Jones | 6 Waltham Court | 354-3468 | Palmerston North |
| Chris Kelly | 108 Salisbury Street | 326-8039 | Ashhurst |
| Laurie Kennedy | 6 Dittmer Drive | 357-4360 | Palmerston North |
| Donald Kerr | 54 Moonshine Valley Road | 355-2725 | Aokautere |
| David Larsen & Kath Lyttle | P O Box 4361 | 329-8054 | Palmerston North |
| Martin Lawrence | 44 Dahlia Street | 357-1695 | Palmerston North |
| Brian Lawrence | Penny Road, No 9 (RD) | 324-8552 | Palmerston North |
| Mick Leyland | 38 Pahiatua Street | 358-3183 | Palmerston North |
| Maree Limpus | c/- P Dransfield, Kahuterawa Rd, RD4 | 025-595-958 | Palmerston North |
| Richard Lockett | 24 Dewe Avenue | 323-0948 | Feilding |
| Clive Marsh | 117B Linton Street | 359-5220 | Palmerston North |
| Merv Matthews | 19 Redwood Grove | 357-2858 | Palmerston North |
| Liz Morrison | 5 Leslie Avenue | 357-6532 | Palmerston North |
| Lyn Murphy | 1a Baden Road, Hataitai(04) | 386-3334 | Wellington |
| Kevin Pearce | 38 Waterloo Crescent | 357-0217 | Palmerston North |
| Graham Peters | Utuwai Road, Pohangina Valley West Rd. | 329-4722 | Ashhurst |
| John Phillips | 87 Victoria Avenue | 358-1874 | Palmerston North |
| Lawson & Sue Pither | 4 Athlone Place | 357-3033 | Palmerston North |
| Llew & Jenny Pritchard | 10 Gainsborough Grove | 358-2217 | Palmerston North |
| Graeme Roberts | 21 Liverpool Street | 357-8567 | Palmerston North |
| Chris Saunders | 96 Brightwater Terrace | 358-4899 | Palmerston North |
| Barry Scott | 95 Moonshine Valley Road (RD 1) | 354-0510 | Palmerston North |
| Nigel Scott | 236 Inaha Rd (RD 11) | (06) 274-8401 | Hawera |
| Derek Sharp | 144 Oxford Street | 326-8178 | Ashhurst |
| Nikki Smith | C/- G & S Allomes, Rd 4, 325 Old West Rd | 354-6886 | Palmerston North |
| Warren Soufflot | 12 Kaimanawa Street | 353-0224 | Palmerston North |
| Sarah Stratton | 7 Ngarimu Street | 353-0389 | Palmerston North |
| Sarah Todd | 20 Kent Crescent | 357-0612 | Palmerston North |
| Arthur & Lis Todd | 2 Heayns Place | 323-6246 | Feilding |
| Bruce Van Brunt | C/- Mathematics Dept. Massey | 328-4761 | Palmerston North |
| Lars Van Uffelen | 24 Weston Avenue | 357-3944 | Palmerston North |
| Warren Wheeler | P O Box 1066 | 356-1998 | Palmerston North |
| Peter Wiles | 12 Jensen Street | 358-6894 | Palmerston North |
| Janet Wilson | Pohangina Valley West Rd (RD) | 329-4722 | Ashhurst |

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|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Club Patron | : Lawson Pither | 357-3033 |
| President | : Warren Wheeler | 356-1998 |
| Vice President | : Terry Crippen | 356-3588 |
| Secretary | : Sarah Todd | 357-0612 |
| Treasurer | : Peter Wiles | 358-6894 |
| Membership Enquiries | : Liz Flint | 356-7654 |
| | : Warren Wheeler | 356-1998 |
| Gear Custodian | : Mick Leyland | 358-3183 |
| Newsletter Editor | : John Phillips | 357-9009 (work) |
| deliver articles/disks to: | 87 Victoria Avenue, P.N. | 358-1874 (home) |
| e-mail articles to: | phillips@mwrc.govt.nz | |
| Trip Co-ordinators | : Terry Crippen | 356-3588 |
| | : Liz Flint | 356-7654 |
