

# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

**Newsletter - June 2002**

*It was a lonely and unrivalled peak, mesmerising just to gaze on. I felt subdued in its presence. The vast blinding whiteness of mountain forces itself into your mind. I stared at the distant walls of glistening grey rock rising to spectacular heights where ribbons of water and snow fell silently from overhangs and outcrops. The ice fields flashed white light back from the concave immensity of the north face, beautiful and ominous. It emanated a serene menace: there was about it the beckoning silence of a great height.*

Joe Simpson (2002) "The Beckoning Silence"

## **NEWS- photograph competition and Snowcraft 2002 details**

**REPORTS- Manawatu Gorge by night, and a poem  
A Tararua Peaks Extravaganza  
Kawekas  
Caving, Makuri  
The Queen Charlotte Walkway**

### CLUB NIGHTS

<b>JUNE 13</b>	<b>What's up DOC?</b>	
<b>JUNE 27</b>	<b>Photograph competition.</b>	<b>Murray Woodcock</b>
<b>JULY 4</b>	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Dave Grant's place</b>
<b>JULY 11</b>	<b>Patagonia- Atacama Desert</b>	<b>Harley Betts</b>
<b>JULY 25</b>	<b>Alpine Ruahine</b>	<b>Tony Gates</b>

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**. All club nights commence at 7:45 pm **sharp**, 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. A 50c door fee includes supper.

## UP AND COMING TRIPS & EVENTS

### Trip Grades

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially the weather. As a guide, a reasonably proficient trampler can be expected to cover the graded trips in 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.

### **June 13 Club night What's up DOC?**

DoC staff will present a summary of some of the work they are doing in the region including an update on 1080 use.

June 13 Thursday trampers  
Liz Flint 356-7654

June 15-16 Taumatataua-Howletts M/F  
Lance Gray 356-6454

A real traditional stomping ground for PNTMC, with a good mix of tramping on the tops, a great hut, and plenty to see. In via Longview Hut, out via the Tukituki River (or vice versa)

June 16 Longview Loop M  
Stephen Liddal 357-6978

Planning to join up with the above party, but doing the tramp in one day. Climb up from the end of Kashmir Road, and look around the wide open tussock ridges.

June 20 Thursday trampers  
Rose & Ken Hall 356-8538

June 22-23 Mid winter celebrations E-T  
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

A Year of the Mountain celebration at the Pither lodge in Rangataua, a satellite suburb of Ohakune. Early birds depart Friday 6.00pm for an easy start on Saturday. Fit-Technical grade trip options include climbing Ruapehu while there are plenty of options for Easy to Medium grade trips at lower levels to explore such oddities as frozen waterfalls – weather depending. Pot luck dinner and chocolate fondue with after dinner song and dance (“She’ll be Comin’ Round the Mountain” anyone?). BYO crampons and ice axe (available from club) if you want to go summit-wards.

Contact Warren at home 356-1998 or at work 952-2840.

### **June 27 Club night Annual Photo Competition.**

As at last year's event, Murray Woodcock will be the judge. There are several different categories, as listed in the notices below. Come along and show your best photos.

27 Thursday trampers  
Bev Akers 325-8879

June 30 Kiritaki Hut M/F  
Dave Grant 357 8269

Here is a lovely hut located deep in the south eastern Ruahines, near Maharahara peak. It has good tracks, and a grand view of the area.

June 30 Beehive Creek Walkway E

A short relaxed easy stroll in the Pohangina Valley, with stream, bush, and farmland. Mid-morning start. Finish at the Waterford café.

July 4 Thursday Trampers  
Phil Pearce 354 6687

### **July 4 Committee Meeting** Dave Grant's place, 124 Buick Crescent.

July 6-7 Mid Pohangina M  
Llew Pritchard 358 2217

Depart 9.00 AM for the Pohangina Valley, cross the farmland, and tramp up the gorge sidle track to this nice hut. Back the same way. This is a good spot to observe Whio.

July 7 Longview Hut E  
Malcolm Parker 357 5203

Dep 7.00 AM for Kashmir road. To this lovely hut for a brew, then beyond to Otumore if weather and snow conditions permit.

### **July 11 Club night Harley Betts. A trip to Patagonia and northern Chile, March-April 2002.**

Harley will show images from a recent tramping trip to South America. Places visited include Chile's Torres del Paine circuit and Argentina's Parque Nacional los Glaciares, followed by a week

of thawing out in the moonscapes of the Atacama Desert in far northern Chile.

July 13- 14 Mitre, Tararuas M  
Graham Peters 329 4722

A Leisurely day in the Waingawa Valley, behind Masterton, on Saturday to establish base camp at Mitre Flats. then an alpine- ish start Sunday to "knock the bastard off"- Mitre Peak I mean.

July 13- 14 Blyth Hut, TNP E/M  
Mary Crow 06 322 8665

Depart 8.00 AM, to spend some time exploring this lovely area on the slopes of Mt Ruapehu. Good tracks, huts, forest, and tussock clearings.

July 20- 21 Cattle Ridge Hut M  
Lance Gray 356 6454

Depart 8.00 AM for this good hut overlooking the Ruamahanga valley. It's about 3 hours tramp to Roaring Stag Lodge, then a steep climb up the hill. There is a good fire box in this hut.

July 21 Herepai Hut E  
Peter Darragh 358 8774

Depart 7.30 AM for the Mangatainoka Valley road end, then it's not far to Herepai Hut- a nice lunch spot. The fitter ones may wish to ascend the track further, possibly into snow.

#### **Trip participants:**

If you are interested in going on a trip, please contact the leader at least three days in advance. Trips usually leave from the Foodtown carpark in Fergusson Street with transport provided by car-pooling. 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 or any suggestions for future tramps please contact one of the trip co-ordinators Terry Crippen (356-3588), Janet Wilson (329-4722) or Andrew Lynch (325-8779).

**Trip leaders:** Please discuss with the trip co-ordinators, 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.

#### **\*\*\* OVERDUE TRIPS \*\*\***

Enquiries to: Mick Leyland (358-3183), Terry Crippen (356-3588), or Janet Wilson (329 4722)

#### **NOTICES**

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES can be Emailed to [tony.gates@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:tony.gates@horizons.govt.nz), or stuff can be delivered to him at home or work.

c/- horizons.mw

11-15 Victoria Ave, PN

If you're e-mailing, please include your article as an attachment (Microsoft Word Version 7.0 or Rich Text Format), unless it is a small article, which can be typed directly into the e-mail.

You may get an e-mail reply from the horizons 'postmaster'. Don't worry, all material gets through once it is checked for viruses etc. by horizons' staff.

The deadline for anything for the Newsletter is the **FIRST THURSDAY** of the month.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Gail Atkinson  
209A Kimbolton Road

Feilding  
Ph. 323-5755

Heike Hahn  
1A Kensington Mews  
Palmerston North  
Ph. 324-8829

Barbara Mare  
Highden Manor  
PO Box 11081  
Palmerston North  
Ph 324-7000 and 021-188-6118

Tim Odering  
31 North St  
Palmerston North  
Ph. 357-1614

Welcome to you all, and good tramping.  
**FOR SALE**

Contact: Fiona Donald 3561095 (A/ H)

Kathmandu "Navigator" goosedown: standard 700 gms semi-rectangular blue bag. (left side zip and pillowcase built in hood). 3-4 season; construction: chevron box wall baffles. Weight 1.70 kg. Retail \$539.50 To sell \$230.00 ono (Included is stuff sack and calico bag with instructions for care.) Excellent condition, bought new in March 2000, used 12 times indoors.

### **MORE GEAR FOR SALE**

Kastle Randonee Alpine Touring skis, 185 cm mounted with Emery touring bindings (excellent for both touring and down hilling). Plus Montana climbing skins fitted to skis \$325

Koflach Viva Soft plastic climbing boots, ladies model, size 6 \$100

160 cm Dynamic skis with Tyrolia bindings and brakes. Old but good nick, suitable as learners skis. Poles also. \$30

Dynafit CD12 rear entry ladies ski boots, hardly used, Mondo point size 26 (NZ 5 ½) \$80

Tyre Chains – Quiklok, easy to put on (as chains go!) Cover range of tyre sizes from 13 to 15 inch. Excellent condition. \$60

MSR XG-K multi fuel primus. Well used but still goes ok \$40

If you are interested in any of this, then please phone Dave in the evenings 326 8892

### **SIX MONTH EVENTS CARD, July- Dec 2002.**

The Events Card for the next six months is out. Lots of excellent winter, spring and early summer trips. Thank you to leaders who have committed yourselves. (Leaders: please read the enclosed letter.) I'm sure all club members will actively support their good effort. Don't forget to encourage others to come on these trips as well.

For newcomers please read the comments, regarding the grading of trips printed on the events card and in the Newsletter. Remember to contact the leaders at least 3 days in advance - phoning up Friday night for a weekend trip is probably a bit too late!

The club has available "Trip Feedback" forms which are designed for getting feedback from trips you go on, so the club can help enhance your future outdoor experiences. They are available at club nights, or ask your trip leader.

For further information contact a trip co-ordinator (Janet Wilson 329-4722, Andrew Lynch 325-8779, Terry Crippen 356-3588).

A range of club evenings has also been organised. Please try to come along to as many of OUR club nights as possible. As well as the excellent selection of topics being presented club nights are a good chance for a chat and hear what others have been up to. Our Club night organiser is Warren Wheeler, phone 356-1998.



## **SNOWCRAFT INSTRUCTION PROGRAMME 2002**

Terry Crippen

This very worthwhile programme is designed to equip club members and others with basic to intermediate skills so they can safely get out and about in snow on winter trips, and alpine trips down south over summer: from straight forward walking on snow slopes to snow climbing and aspects of technical mountaineering. A progressive approach is used: Snowcraft 1 assumes nil or only minor previous snow experience, while Snowcraft 2 and 3 build on the previous level.

Most people enter at Snowcraft 1 level. However depending on their aims, some people find just Snowcraft 1, or Snowcraft 1 and 2, sufficient. Some people with previous suitable experience may enter at Snowcraft 2 level. Numbers are limited.

The instruction consists of three weekends away (Friday night depart) a fortnight apart, two at Mt Ruapehu and one at Mt Egmont, and three week night evenings (one prior to each weekend). **Applications close Thursday July 25.**

Fee and dates as follows:

Snowcraft 1: \$120 (\$125\*)

evening Tues 30 July, weekend 3-4 August

Snowcraft 2: \$130 (\$135\*)  
evening Wed 14 August, weekend 17-18 August

Snowcraft 3: \$115 (\$120\*)  
evening Wed 28 August, weekend 31 Aug - 1  
September)

One off discounted payment of \$350 (\$365\*)  
(\*non PNTMC member rate)

For further info and registration form contact:  
Warren Wheeler 356-1998,  
or Terry Crippen 3563-588, or Bruce van Brunt  
328-4761.

### TRANSPORT COSTS OF TRIPS

Just a reminder on how transport costs are calculated for club trips. It is based on the return distance in km multiplied by 16 cents (for 1300cc or under vehicles - not many of these now!) or 20 cents for vehicles over 1300cc, multiplied by the number of vehicles, divided by the number of participants on the trip (including drivers).

For example; 2 cars to Rangī road end (168 km return), 7 peoples:  $168 \text{ km} \times \$0.20 \times 2 \text{ cars}$  divided by 7 people = \$9.60, round up to \$10 per person for convenience. The leader then ensures EACH driver gets \$25 even though one car had 4 in it and the other only 3. (The driver obviously doesn't need to pay himself his \$10.)

**There is a list of standard distances and costs on the notice board at club night to make it easier.**

### REMINDER; SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2002/03 are due now. The fee is the same as last year.

\$30 adult,  
\$35 family,  
\$15 junior.

A junior subscription is available for donation to a needy person by our club Patron, Lawson Pither, if so required.

### ANNUAL PHOTO COMPETITION

Yes its that time again! We've seen glimpses of some real winner photos & slides from club members over the past year, so come along and

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enjoy them. The club's annual photo competition will be held at the club night on Thursday, June 27. The usual rules for the competition apply:

- Entries must not have been entered previously
- All entries must be related to tramping, climbing, or the natural environment.
- All slides must have a cross on the bottom left-hand corner of the mount (ie. top right-hand corner when loaded into the carousel).
- Slides and photos labelled with photographers name and entry category.
- Limit of 3 slides per person per category, but no limit on prints.

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Categories:

1. *Alpine (NZ)*. Predominantly alpine scenery in NZ (ie. Above the bushline)
2. *Scenic (NZ)*. Pictorial interest in NZ hills etc. (ie. predominantly below the bushline)
3. *Natural History (NZ)*. NZ flora & fauna or detail, eg. geology, ice formations, etc.
4. *Topical (NZ)*. People in tramping, climbing, or skiing related activities in NZ.
5. *Overseas Alpine or Scenic*. Related to tramping, etc. overseas or Scenic
6. *Overseas People*. Climbers or people met while tramping, climbing overseas.

The formats are; slides, b/ w prints, and colour prints. Prints can be digital images, and do not need to be mounted. The system for judging winners is a democratic one – a show of hands, after the guiding advice of our guest judge, Murray Woodcock.

There will be another interclub photo competition later this year, between MUAC and MTSC to

## TRIP REPORTS

### **MANAWATU GORGE NIGHT TRAMP, May 4 2002. By Kevin Pearce.**

Night tramping has its own special appeal. It can make the ordinary seem extraordinary. This was the case one dark and stormy night when the following ventured into the dark: Kevin Pearce, Malcom Parker, Terry Crippen, Duncan Hedderley, Neil Campbell, Tim Odering, Pauline Knuckey + friend, Elaine Herve, Arran de Malmanche, Janet Wilson and Graham Peters. We had a pleasant 150 minute stroll with the track to ourselves save for the opossums. (Actually, it wasn't stormy in the Gorge, or even wet, but it certainly was dark as the clouds were thick and the moon had not risen.)

### **THE LAKES- TUTAEKURI- KAWEKA HUT May 18- 19. By Gail Atkinson.**

We set off for our weekend adventure early on Saturday morning, travelling via Dannevirke. Here, we enjoyed a coffee/ cup of tea by a cosy fire in an up market café. A good start to our trip!

We travelled west from Fern Hill, through the pine forest on the Napier Taihape Road. The weather deteriorated, but didn't dampen our spirits. In an appropriate vehicle for the road conditions (Tony's 4WD), we travelled the 8 kms down the Lawrence road to the Lawrence Shelter. Here, we found a great picnic spot nestled in trees beside the Tutaekuri River. After lunch, we drove to "The Lakes" car park. From here, there is scope for day trips or extended tramping trips. As chose an easy option- the 30 minute walk to The Lakes, through attractive Kanuka and hardwood forest. This was an attractive walk, but where were all the birds? In the same area was the Mackintosh car park. We walked 100 metres to a vantage point that looked across the Mackintosh Plateau and into the headwaters of the Donald River in the main Kaweka Range. It was an amazing view!

Back in the 4WD, we scouted around for a suitable place to camp, and we found a great grassy spot in the Kuripapango reserve, by the Ngaruroro River. The light rain eased up, so we could pitch our tents and prepare our very early evening meal before night fall. I thought Tony

think about. Consider yourself warned.

was joking when he said to bring a deck chair- but he wasn't!

At 8.00 AM Sunday, with the weather looking promising, we drove back to the lakes carpark to start our tramp to the Kaweka Hut. We went down through the pine trees, over the Tutaekuri River, climbed through Kanuka then Beech Forest, and over two ridges. We chose the steeper side of the loop track to the hut, and decided that the sigh showed unrealistic times to the hut and car park.

At one point on our climb, we had a panoramic view of the East Coast, including Cape Kidnappers. Fantastic! At about this spot we caught Liz combing her hair! No wonder she had let Elaine carry her daypack, after Elaine had stated that shed felt guilty without one.

The Kaweka Hut, built in 1936, sleeps ten, and from it, there is access into the Kaweka Range. After lunch, Liz and I relaxed in a sunny spot on the helipad, while Tony and Elaine walked up to the bush line.

We descended the other side of the loop, and made good time back to the car. As a fern enthusiast, I was interested in the variety of beautiful ferns growing alongside the track most of the way.

We decided to travel home over the "Gentle Annie Hill", and called at Taihape for a welcome coffee and chocolate muffin at Tricia Eder's home. [Trica had been trained in the Mick Leyland school of coffee making- strong, black, and plenty of it- ed] She is now the Secretary/ Treasurer for the Taihape Tramping Club, and was pleased to hear about this club's personalities, meetings, and trips.

Our Kaweka trip was relaxed and very enjoyable. We talked a lot about the potential that the Kaweka Forest Park has, with its many options. Thank you Tony for the opportunity to experience a part off it.

We were; Liz Morrison, Elaine Herve, Gail Atkinson, and Tony Gates.

**CAVING INTRODUCTION AT COONOR  
May 19, by Tim Odering.**

The dreaded trip report. Well, here goes. We started out at about 8.00 AM Sunday, heading to a cave at Coonor called "P17". This is about an hours drive east of Mangatainoka, through the Makuri gorge.

We picked up Janet and Nigel in Ashhurst, and Tracey in Pahiatua, making 7 souls in all. We were very capably led by Janet.

This was the first time in a cave for several of us, so we didn't know what to expect. So as we gazed down into the narrow hole which was the "main entrance", I suppose we wondered what adventure lay in store. However, after descending about 14 metres to the main gallery, we were pleasantly surprised to find a large cutting (with plenty of head room) that the stream had cut over a long period of time through the limestone. A few minutes walk took us to the "main junction" (where waters, and therefore access ways, meet), from whence we explored the three main routes, and some of their tributaries. There were some tight spots, which at first glance looked a bit daunting, but with the encouragement of seeing Janet or Brian sliding through with little trouble, others of us tried, and likewise got through- most gratifying. "The Tunnel" was wide, but had a lowish roof, forcing us to look down (because of our helmets) and crawl, or "duck walk", and get thoroughly wet in 100 mm of water. Some tight spots lay father on in this passage beyond "the squeeze". Nigel stayed behind in the main passage. He had brought his camera, tripod, and a home made flash system. This incorporated two flashes to illuminate shadows, and he was intent on photographing a spider when we left him- good luck in the caving photography competition Nigel! [where is this photo, please- ed]

We ate only lightly in the cave, and had lunch when we came out. Our happily chattering group safely arrived home about 4.30 PM- round trip about 210 km. Thanks Janet and Graham, a most enjoyable day.

We were; Janet Wilson, Pauline Knuckey, Jacqueline Aust, Tracy Francis, Nigel Stern, Brian Webster, Tim Odering.

**THREE TRAMPERS AND A WIND-FARM,  
May 26. By Duncan Hedderley.**

Strong winds, rain in night,  
But trampers not deterred by  
First hint of winter

Mud makes path slippery,  
And Sarah says her pace slow,  
But we make good time

Before third lookout  
(Coming from west) Terry shows  
Us view of wind-farm

Like gulls taking flight,  
Blades turn, make power to heat  
Homes against the wind

We were: Duncan Hedderley, Sarah from the hospital, and Terry Crippen

**OHAU- NICHOLLS- TARARUA PEAKS,  
May 31- June 3. By Lance Gray.**

This Tararua Peaks Trip led by Jonathon Astin was really three trips in one and highlights his remarkable co-ordination skills that will be sorely missed when he ventures to "Blighty" come September. First there was the "core" trip up the Ohau River in the dark onto Pukematawai and along the main range as far as Bridge Peak and down to Otaki Forks. There was the Terry Terrorising Trip (3T's Trip) completing the classic YTYT, Nichols, Maungahuka, Otaki Forks trip; and there was PNTMCs newest member trip. The up the Mangahao and Harris Creek and along the main range, freeze your boots in the frost trip.

The "in the dark trip" started funnily enough on Friday night, depositing Jonathon and I well up the Ohau River for the first time. Sidling for as long as possible we arrived at what the map told us was the junction of a side-stream and the South Ohau River – wrong – in fact we were 500 metres back at the North/South Ohau junction. "Bloody big side-stream" commented Jonathon as we looked confusedly at the map. After informed debate we tossed a coin and headed up the side-stream guessing in fact that it was the main channel of the South Ohau. With bends and side-streams arriving on queue our confidence grew. South Ohau Hut was functional and gave us a quick start next morning.

The Yeates track was a delight, bringing us to Te Matawai Hut in brilliant sunshine. A well-graded climb brought us to Pukematawai and excellent views of snow-touched south facing peaks. Dundas, Arete and Lancaster were especially impressive with the Park Valley bathed in frost. The stretch to Dracophyllum Biv was testing with many markers but little apparent track.

The ice axe did come in handy for punching holes through the ice in the water tank. Dracophyllum to Kelleher can only be described as a “disaster” as we grovelled between orange markers. Kelleher through to Nichols made up for this section with a well-defined track and pleasant late afternoon sunlight.

Then Terry arrived. The 3T’s Trip arose from the fact that when Terry arrived at Nichols he had a particularly malicious smile. Without prompting he told us the grim news that hordes of trampers (there were six of them) were coming to join us. Unbeknown to Terry, I just received a recording of the alleged conversation from the Father and Son who were too afraid to reveal names. They did however consent to an abridged publication of the conversation that took place near YTTY Hut.

Terry: How’s it goes how it goes?

Father & Son: Yeah not too bad.

Terry: Where’re you off to?

Father & Son: Nichols tonight and along to Te Matawai tomorrow.

Terry: You sure you want to be going to Nichols? I’m meeting a couple of club members there and I’ll probably be sleeping on the floor as it only has two beds. It’d be a poor result if you did. Also, Jonathon snores and there is about to be a climatic amelioration.

Father & Son: What’s that?

Terry: Bad weather...

There is much, much more to this quite apparently harmless conversation but it reveals a subtle cunningness that worked a treat because the group of four he spoke didn’t turn up either!

The Sunday along to Maungahuka was a treat with cloud lifting soon after leaving Andersons Memorial Hut. We could see for miles, but also all of the ups and downs to Maungahuka. Jonathon did his bionic man impression while Terry and I potted along behind wondering how to slow him down. The fact he had a 35 litre “nano” pack may have contributed to it. We will forgive him as some burglars decided they liked his tramping equipment just as much as he does!

Well settled in at Maungahuka and Jean Garman arrives to join us again. Her best tale was walking for half an hour in unlaced frozen boots after a night under the fly in Harris Creek. While Jean may have been a tad late it had nothing on the two fools who turned up at 9 pm after 4 hours tramping by torchlight, then proceeded to drop Jonathon’s camera and snore the foundations off the piles. Needless to say we made an early start with Terry rousing one out of the pit for a stolen billy-clamp! Don’t mess with Terry!

The Tararua Peaks were a novelty with the new bullet proof ladder and lightening rod before the final stretch up to Bridge Peak and a return to the manicured paths of Field’s Track. Conversation degenerated to toilet humour before being dragged around to the science of DNA and genetics. Finally we made the car-park for the end of an excellent trip.

We were: Jonathon Astin, Lance Gray, Terry Crippen & Jean Garman.

**QUEEN CHARLOTTE WALKWAY, Queens Birthday Weekend 2002. By Elaine, Jenny, Tracey, and Janet.**

By Popular agreement, it all began with a pre-trip meeting at Elaine’s house. Food was the main item discussed- also the itinerary and arrangements for catching the 1.30am ferry. Our rendezvous was early Friday morning (12-05am) at the ferry terminal. Leaving the card in the long term car park, we boarded the Arahura quickly and all found beds in the bar. After 3 hrs we continued our sleep in the Picton ferry terminal before overwhelming a small café where most of us indulged in cooked breakfasts. At 9.30am we met Lindsay, our most informative Beachcomber boat skipper, who entertained us during our hour long ride to Ship Cove. Here we waved goodbye to our packs and went for a short walk through lovely Nikau Palms to a picturesque waterfall,

before heading off up a steepish track towards Resolution Bay, where we had lunch. We continued on easy coastal tracks up Endeavour Inlet past Furneaux Lodge to our backpackers cabin at Endeavour Resort, arriving about 4pm. Dinner was cooked some caving games played and the less tired people went glowworm spotting.

Next morning most people headed onto the water Elaine and Steve made good use of the complimentary kayaks and Janet rowed Graham, Yvette and Tracy for miles in a dinghy. Katie and Heike also went paddling and Heike was lucky enough to see a dolphin nearby. Yvette caught a blue cod. Jenny and Tim went for a side trip to the Antimony mines and onto the ridge beyond for a view. Once on the road they became adventurous and without a proper map, followed the road, eventually arriving at Camp Bay, our destination for the night. Jill left early to botanise and take photos at her leisure, and the rest of us walked around the coastal track during the afternoon approx. 3 hours, and easy day. We arrived in time to set up camp and relocate the picnic table before the hordes of mountain bikes arrived and the sun went down.

A huge communal meal was cooked and enjoyed. Entertainment was provided by Tim who went swimming (to the amusement of many boaties), and the antics of the local wekas and possums. We had an evening walk to the wharf to see more glow worms and interesting marine life. Nobody made it the Punga Cove pub! Heike had her first experience of possums when one got under her tent fly and found her bread rolls.

Next morning we were up earlier time to do some serious walking the guide book suggested 5.5-7.5 hours, another sign said 9 hours. Upwards and onwards on a sociably wide, well maintained track. Perfect weather ensured good views of both Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds and provided plenty of excuses for photo stops. The group spread out and regrouped during the day and all arrived at Portage around 4pm. Tracy and Tim immediately set out in a Canadian canoe for a

tour of the bay. The rest settled in to our own self-contained flat, showered and went to the local pub for a drink and a feed.

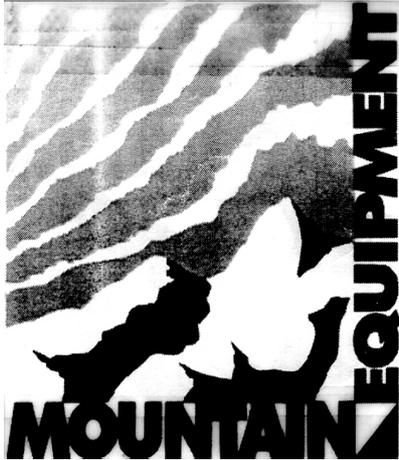
On Monday morning most people were keen and away early. Jill chose to accompany the boat and packs for Portage to Mistletoe Bay where we were to be picked up, our final destination. It was another beautiful sunny day with yet more spectacular views and photo opportunities. Graham, Tim, Yvette and Janet left a little later and had a fast walk, everyone arriving at Mistletoes around 10.30am. We sat in the sun of the wharf while Tim swam Jenny did her needle work. The boat duly arrived and delivered us directly to the ferry terminal in time for the 1.30pm ferry home.

The Queen Charlotte walkway takes you through varied vegetation, from scrubby farmland to wonderful beech forest with plentiful bird life, notably tuis and bellbirds and it was great to see so many wekas. The track is well serviced by a wide choice of accommodation and transport options and we took full advantage of the daily pack transfers provided by the boat. A great way to spend a fine Queens Birthday weekend.

We were Elaine Herve, Tim Odering, Heike Hahn, Jenny McCarthy, Steve Glasgow, Yvette Cottam, Jill Rapson, Tracy Francis, Katie Peters Graham Peters and Janet Wilson.

Club Patron	: Lawson Pither	357-3033
President	: Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Vice President	: Terry Crippen	356-3588
Secretary	: Dave Grant	357 8269
Treasurer	: Peter Wiles	358-6894
Membership Enquiries	: Warren Wheeler	356-1998

	: Liz Flint	356-7654
	: Mick Leyland	358-3183
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