



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING  
& MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (INC)  
P.O. Box 1217 Palmerston North

## NEWSLETTER

8/75

Hon. Secretary,  
Trevor Bissell, 71-955  
Membership Enquiries  
Peter Croad, 80-284 (evenings)

### COMING EVENTS

#### 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST CLUB NIGHT

Thursday 7.30 p.m. in the Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street.  
Films include

“Bushcraft, changing Horizons”  
“Skiing at Chateau Tongariro”

Supper Duties: Kevin Pearce (tea towels)  
James Read  
John Valentine

#### 5-7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER SNOWCRAFT II. Mount Egmont

The third and last of the snowcraft courses. Previous snowcraft experience is essential for this advanced course. Pupils must supply their own ice axe and crampons – contact the gear custodian early to ensure that you are equipped. Names must be in by 7.00 p.m. Wednesday 3rd September.

Leader : Brad Owen Phone 83-467  
Grading: Fit  
Cost : Transport \$5.30, hut fee \$1.25 per night.  
Depart : Time of departure is yet to be decided.

#### 6-7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER MOUNT EGMONT

An easy trip to comfortable Kapuni Lodge on the Dawson Falls slopes of Mount Egmont. Brings longs and mittens.

Names to, Brad Owen Phone 83-467  
Grading: Easy  
Cost : \$6.65  
Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 a.m.

#### 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING

At 7.30 p.m. 28 Carroll Street, Palmerston North.

#### 13-14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER SAWTOOTH RIDGE

It is hoped that a mountaineer's disguise will be required for this trip.

Leader : Keith Margrain Phone 79-303  
Grading: Fitness Essential  
Cost : \$2.60  
Depart : Super Save Car Park

13-14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER HINERUA – RUAHINES

An Eastern Ruahine trip to Hinerua Hut.  
Names to, Keith Margrain Phone 79-303  
Grading: Medium  
Cost : \$2.60  
Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 a.m.

20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER MOUNT HOLDSWORTH

This trip will be an excellent test of physical fitness because if you conk-out you can free-wheel back home. If you get left behind you can be picked up on the return journey. Are you fit?

Names to, John Williams Phone 84-925  
Grading: Fit  
Cost : \$3.20  
Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 a.m.

20-21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER POWELL HUT

A somewhat more leisurely version of the above trip. An ascent of Mount Holdsworth will be optional.

Names to, John Williams Phone 84-925  
Grading: Medium  
Cost : \$3.20  
Depart : Super Save Car Park 6.00 a.m.

25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER CLUB NIGHT

27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER ROCK CLIMBING TITAHU BAY

27-28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER ROCK CLIMBING TITAHU BAY AND BARING HEAD

Suitable for both novice and veteran climbers. Both areas are pleasant picnic spots but bring plenty to drink as there is no fresh water.

You are all invited to a barbecue on Saturday night to celebrate James Read return to these pleasant shores.

Leader : Glenn Dixon Phone 83-649  
Grading: Easy  
Cost : Day trip \$3.40, Weekend \$5.20

NOTICE

CAMERA ENTHUSIASTS

Hand coloured photographs make fine pictures for your walls, and have the advantage of lasting longer than coloured prints as well as being an art form. Heather Crabb is now taking orders for photo colouring.

Prints range from \$2.20 for 6"x8" print ring Heather 77-668 for more information.

New Members

Welcome to

Eric Terzaghi and family 210 Park Road Palmerston North phone 71-650  
Bruce Parker 89 Brightwater Terrace, Palmerston North phone 87-456  
Roy Wilson 28 Carroll Street, Palmerston North phone 84-925

#### Kevin Pearce

Congratulations to Kevin on receiving a years Post Doctoral Fellowship at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York State.

Kevin's untiring enthusiasm for the club and the tramping fraternity will be surely missed. We look forward to his return and anecdotes of intrepid and gigantic climbs of (soya) bean stalks.

Kevin's place on the committee has been filled by Glen Dixon.

### PAST TRIPS

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> June Day trip to Rangī

One of the first rules of tramping is to make sure you get an early night before the trip. Well rules are made to be broken and I know at least 5 people broke it on this trip.

After a slightly belated departure we headed for our club mansion in the Ruahines. One car load was looking decidedly green and lethargic on arriving at the carpark. The weather was reasonable with a sprinkling of snow making the hills look very picturesque. We arrived at the hut to find the weekend party tucking into something they called scones. After eating and sleeping our way through the midday we set off slowly back to the carpark arriving there looking a little less green than some of us had earlier in the morning.

We had the "luck" to meet up with a large group of young trampers a few of whom delighted in starting minor landslides on the extensive slips on the track.

Considering the start, the trip went very well and everyone enjoyed themselves. Trip Members:- Janet Maessen, Kathy Hindmarsh, Glenn Dixon, Peter Croad, Tim Short, Cheryl Salmons, Linda and Kevin Salmons.

#### 28-29<sup>th</sup> June PNTMC, MUAC, TAC, Trip to Egmont

After a long drive from Palmerston the five of us finally arrived at North Egmont, Chalet at 10.30 p.m. We all jumped "enthusiastically" out of the car into the nippy Egmont air and proceeded (after a bit of mucking about) at the translator road, weighed down with ice-axes, crampons, bush hats, ropes and other gear, the fate of which will be mentioned later. It was a perfectly clear night with three quarter moon light the track so the torches were discarded. The lights of all the surrounding Taranaki townships could be seen quite clearly as they glittered in the distance.

At about 4,000 feet we saw the first signs of snow. There was very little snow from their up until we reached one of the last corners before the Lodge. There was hard ice from there up. Tim and Kathy who were ahead had avoided the track and somehow managed to get onto safe ground and Glenn followed their example. Peter however ended up crawling on hands and knees over the ice like an opossum and Janet jumped from rock to rock and onto the gravel patches between the ice with some success and only a few slips. We finally got up to Tahurangi Lodge after cutting steps and scrambling on all fours at the bank which leads to the front door.

Saturday began with a rude awakening at 7.30 by Glen with cups of tea which weren't really appreciated at that ungodly hour. Crampons were necessary from the Lodge as there was still an icy crust on the snow from the previous night.

Although balaclavas and extra clothes were carried they weren't needed for the first few thousand feet. Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro stood majestically against the skyline while Egmont shone white and beautiful against the blue sky in all her glory. There was no hurry so we took our time, and joining the sunshine and scenery.

The summit was cold but we soon found a sheltered spot amongst the sastrugi and had lunch. From that point we had a good view of the south side of the mountain and could look down on the Turtle. The south face of this is an extremely difficult ice climb, completed for the first time only last year by two members of the TAC. As we prepared to leave the summit our great President lost something very dear to his heart, his climbing helmet. We all watched solemnly as it tumbled down the slopes to its death. Yet another article of gear, Peter's karrimat was lost to Egmont as we descended. Bumsliding most of the way we found that coming down was slightly easier than going up.

Back at the Lodge we devoured enough food for about twice the amount of people. Then played cards with one ear open for the joke sessions at the other end of the room and then retired, this time at a reasonable hour.

SUNDAY; The translator road looked much longer in the light of the day. There were surprised gasps from several people and comments that if they'd known it was that long they wouldn't have come up. Lucky it was dark at the time.

We spent a few hours and New Plymouth and got very bored with the certain stretch of road and then headed for Waitara for a meal at the Maessen residence. We left quite late and arrived and Palmerston around one in the morning. For some of "The Team" it had been their first real introduction to Egmont, it was a really enjoyable trip.

Those who went: Tim Short, Kathy Hindmarsh, Glenn Dixon, Peter Croad, and Janet Maessen.

## PROPOSED HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER SCHEME ON THE OTAKI RIVER

The Horowhenua Electric Power Board is at present seeking approval to carry out a feasibility study of an electric power scheme on the upper Otaki River. Preliminary studies have, in the opinion of the Board, been encouraging and the Board has been extremely active in promoting the scheme. Unfortunately, some of the claims made by the Board have been grossly extravagant.

The proposed scheme involves building a dam on the Otaki River a little downstream from Waitewaewae Hut, below the Aripito Stream confluence. The dam would be roughly 100 feet high and would form a lake of somewhere between 0.4 and 0.8 square miles in area. Water would be diverted through a tunnel running west to the Waitatapia River where there would be a second small dam and lake. A second tunnel would carry the water to a point about 1000 feet above sea level above the lower Otaki Gorge. Pipes would carry the water down to a Power House on the banks of the Otaki River. Current estimates put the capacity of the scheme at 40 MW however these are based on incomplete river flow data. A road, following the general line of the track to the Waitewaewae Hut would need to be constructed to the dam site and tunnel. In many ways the proposed Otaki River scheme is very similar to the existing Mangahao scheme.

The H.E.P.B. have claimed that the environmental and recreational advantages of the scheme far outweigh the disadvantages. This is not so. An access road to the Upper Otaki Valley at Waitewaewae Hut (to be drowned by the lake) will reduce the area available to trampers rather than increase it. At present a pleasant sense of isolation is available to all those who make the 3 or 4 hour walk into the Valley. An access road will destroy this. Increasing numbers of people including children and old people are walking into the area through bush covered hills and onto exposed ridges or dangerous river crossings.

Like the Mangahao Dams the lake will be muddy, will not support fish, it will be unsuitable for boating and swimming and will be dangerous to the children of picnickers. Trampers and hunters will have to traverse difficult side tracks along the valley walls to gain access to the river above the lakes.

The H.E.P.B. claims that the scheme, or 100 like it, will delay the construction of more expensive and more polluting thermal and nuclear power stations. The scheme, if commissioned in 1980, would provide NZ's projected increase in required generating capacity by 1 month. 100 such schemes may delay the building of other types of generating station by less than 7 years. In fact the Evening Standard of 13/8/75 in an article on the Power Planning Committee's annual report to Parliament states that "The committee said that from what was known at present, it appeared unlikely there would be sufficient development on a commercial scale of indigenous resources to significantly delay the introduction of nuclear power".

The advantages to the country as a whole are therefore short term, but the dam will be there for many hundreds of years.

The P.N.T.M.C., like the Wellington Affiliated Mountain Clubs, has made a submission to the Commissioner for the Environment protesting against the scheme. This will be printed in the next newsletter and some copies will be made available at an earlier date. Individuals are encouraged to voice their protests in print to the various organizations involved.

These are:-

- (1) The Commissioner for the Environment,  
P.O. Box 12-042,  
Wellington North 1
- (2) The Conservature of Forests,  
C/- N.Z.F.S.,  
P.O. Box 647,  
Palmerston North
- (3) The Minister of Forests,  
C/- N.Z.F.S.,  
Private Bag,  
Wellington
- (4) The Minister of Electricity,  
Parliament Building,  
Wellington
- (5) Editors of Newspapers eg.:-  
The Dominion, P.O. Box 1297, Mercer Street, Wellingt 1  
Guardian Newspaper, 479 Main Street, Palmerston North  
Manawatu Evening Standard, The Square, Palmerston North  
Mr M McCaul, Editor, Levin Weekly News, 266 Oxford Street, Levin  
The Chronicle, 248 Oxford Street, Levin  
Evening Post, P.O. Box 1398, Wellington

	Local M.P.'s and Political Candidates:-	
	<u>Palmerston North</u>	<u>Ruahine</u>
Labour	Hon J(ohn) A. Walding M.P. Parliament Buildings Wellington (Home Phone 80-286)	R(ex) J. Willing  (Phone FLDG 8208)
National	J(ohn) L. Lithgo 491 College Street Palmerston North (Phone 80-019)	L.W. Gander M.P. Moorlands Colyton R.D. 6 Feilding
Social Credit	P(eter) J. Edmonds 95 Vogel Street Palmerston North (Phone 87-708)	L(es) W. Hunter 44 Windsor Street Palmerston North (Phone 81-576)
Values	N(eil) W. Rennie 33 Jickell Street Palmerston North (Phone 71-559)	G(eorge) F. Senalach 587 Ferguson Street Palmerston North (Phone 78-070)

Notices:- Mr Hunter has spoken publicly in favour of he scheme.  
Mr Rennie is opposed to the scheme.

The first three names on the list are important as the Commissioner for the Environment and N.Z.F.S. have been requested by the H.E.P.B. to grant them permission to:-

- (a) Carry out the necessary survey work for a "Full feasibility Study" and "Full Environmental Impact Report on the hydro scheme, and
- (b) Build the required roads into the Forest Park if required.

These reports will be then used by the H.E.P.B. in support of applications for:-

- (c) The Commissioner for the Environment and N.Z.F.S. to construct the tunnels, dams etc. for the project, and
  - (d) The Manawatu Catchment Board for Water Rights on the Otaki River.
- If requests (a) to (d) are granted the fate of the Upper Otaki River Flats and the Waitewaewae Track is sealed!