

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



NEWSLETTER

6/80

Hon Secretary: Terry Crippen, 63-588
 Membership Enquiries: Catherine Farquhar, 64-297
 Newsletter Editor: Heather Crabb, 77-668
 Gear Custodian: Kevin Pearce 70-217

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Enquiries Concerning Overdue Trips:

N.B. Work numbers are for emergency use only.

Kevin Pearce,	Home	70-217	Work	74-129
Don French		73-543		80-449
Philip Budding		85-936		8236

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COMING EVENTS

ALL TRIPS LEAVE THE "SUPERSAVE" CAR PARK, FERGUSON STREET. IF YOU WISH TO GO ON A TRIP ADVISE THE LEADER AT LEAST THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE.

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26 June- CLUB NIGHT

Talk and slides shown on Moirs Guide Book Country. By Laurie Kennedy. At the Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street at 7.45 pm.

SUPPER DUTIES: Catherine Farquhar, Allan Dunn, Colin Elliot

10 July COMMITTEE MEETING

At Terry Crippen's – 18 Colombo Street, 7.45 pm

27 – 29 June – CAVING AT WAITOMO

Lets go under, instead of over, with the guiding hands of M.S.G. Try to figure out why cavers enjoy crawling around in the mud.

No 1 worm Trevor Bissell, Phone 73-543
 Grading: Easy
 Cost: \$20.00 approximately
 Depart: Friday night 6.30 pm

For further details see last months newsletter. More details will be said at Club night.

29 June – DIGGERS HUT

A pleasant Sunday trip for those who prefer to keep out of the mud of the caves.

Names to: Don French, Phone 73-543
 Grading: Easy
 Cost: \$3.00
 Depart: Sunday 7.00 am

4 – 6 July – NEIL WINCHCOMBE RIDGE

A classic crossing in the southern Tararua Range. Will hope to be traversing Hector Peak and see the War Memorial cross that has just been replaced last month. An iceaxe is a must.

Leader: Kevin Pearce, Phone 70-217
Grading: Fitness Essential
Cost: \$6.00
Depart: 6.30 pm Friday

5 – 6 July – KIME HUT – TREGEAR STREAM

Saturday will climb to Kime Hut on the slopes of Hector Peak. Hector may be climbed. Sunday you will return via Tregear Stream.

Leader: Susan Cade, Phone 88-241
Grading: Medium
Depart: 6.30 am Saturday
Cost: \$3.00

12 – 13 July – WAIPAWA RIVER – WATERFALL HUT – SMITH CREEK

A trip to the centre of the central Ruahine. Good top travel, finally descending to Waterfall Hut by Broken Ridge. Sunday out via another route.

Leader: Colin Elliot, Phone 88-546
Grading: Fit
Depart: 6.30 am Saturday
Cost: \$4.50

12 – 13 July – WAIPAWA – WAIKAMAKA HUT

Easy travel In both the Waipawa and Waikamaka rivers in the Ruahine Range will be enjoyed. Possible travel out on Sunday by a different route.

Names to: Colin Elliot, Phone 88-546
Grading: Easy
Depart: 6.30 am Saturday
Cost: \$4.50

18 – 20 July – KAWEKAS

The Club has not visited this forest park very often, so we have two trips this weekend. Routes for the trips are to be decided upon at a later stage. Fit party, please bring iceaxe.

Leader: Don French, Phone 73-543
Grading: Fit and Medium
Cost: \$10.00
Depart: 6.30 pm Friday

25 – 27 July – SOUTHERN CROSSING

Another in our series of classic crossings in the Tararua range. Given fine weather this trip can be most memorable. Iceaxe is required.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, Phone 73-543
Grading: Fitness Essential
Cost: \$7.00
Depart: 6.30 pm Friday

27 July – RENATA HUT

A Sunday trip to this hut in the south western Tararua Forest Park. The Club has not visited this hut very often.

Leader: Roddy Henderson, Phone 63-588
Grading: Medium
Depart: Sunday 6.00 am
Cost: \$3.50

NOTICES

Regards have been sent to all members of the Club from Sarah Godfrey in Blenheim. She has been tramping several times in the Nelson Lakes area and finds so much lovely scenery to view.

Dawn Ellis has thanked the Club for assistance when she sprained her ankle. She has donated Book Tokens for the Club.

The Club has taken out a subscription of the new magazine ALIVE from various donations received.

A letter has arrived from Ross Meder. Address now: 4 Wairarapa Terrace
Christchurch 5
Phone 55-4642

Ross has offered his residence as a stopover for trips further south.

It is with regret that we accept the resignation of Russell Johnson, owing to family commitments. Russell became a member of the club in its early days, is a past president and is active in Search and Rescue activity and has been a Search Advisor.

NEW MEMBERS

- Pete Wiles 5 Rongopai Street, Phone 74-129 extension 809
- Dorothy Brown 19 Ward Street, Phone 69-771
- Keith Pollock 313 Botanical Road, Phone 67-804
- Bruce Guy 9 Ngareta Street, Marton, Phone 6068

TRIP LISTS AT THE POLICE STATION

Trip leaders are recommended to leave a list of trip members and phone numbers at the Police Station in Church Street immediately before leaving Palmerston North. Forms are available for just this purpose. See Donald French – 28 Carroll Street, Phone 73-543

OVERDUE TRAMPING TRIPS

From time to time Club parties have been late returning from trips. Generally the reason for the late return has been trivial as far as the safety and welfare of the overdue party is concerned – breakdowns, punctures, temporary loss of route, floods etc. Nevertheless parents and spouses worry over the non-return of loved ones. To avoid the embarrassment of not knowing who has gone on some particular trip the Club has made arrangements with the Police for trip leaders to leave a list with them. Do not forget to call at/or to phone the Police Station upon your return. If you are seriously delayed for any reason, contact the Club official on your list as soon as possible. Also important the Club official should first be advised before his name is used (who wants to be rung up in the middle of the night about a trip you know nothing about).

Finally make sure that the phone numbers concerning overdue trips (found on the front page of each newsletter) are where your parents, wife, husband, or flatmates can find them, e.g. fastened to the telephone book.



JULY CLUB NIGHT – MASSEY ALPINE CLUB AGAINST PNTMC – annual debate will be held on Tuesday 29 July instead of normal Club night. Further information next newsletter.



Angle Knob hut in the Tararuas has been blown away.

NOTICES (Continued)

For sale – one pair of size 7 boots in very good condition \$30.00 – Ann Hayman, Phone 73-991.

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REVIEW

'ALIVE' - NEW ZEALAND'S OUTDOOR MAGAZINE

The first monthly issue of this magazine has appeared in book shops and sports shops in the last month. Edited by David Hall and Roger Foley it originates from Wellington and is "aimed at all who enjoy the outdoors".

This issue covers a whole range of activities – search and rescue, climbing, tramping, walkways, fishing, hunting, cycling, canoeing and rafting. But the articles are short and lack depth.

One quarter of the magazine is devoted to advertisements proper, but a two page article on tents, which at first appears to be a product assessment, compares only two types of tent, both made by the same company! And another half page 'news' snippet pushes only one brand name.

For those who don't read any other publications on the outdoors the articles could be interesting, but for most, 'Alive' covers too many activities to be of value to the enthusiast who concentrates on one or two outdoor pursuits.

It may be prejudging this magazine after only one issue, I hope so. It will be available at Club nights for you to make your own evaluation.

Chrissie Elliot

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PAST EVENTS

25 – 27 April – ST ARNAUD RANGE (NELSON LAKES) – ANZAC WEEKEND

With the sound of the bellbirds we awoke to be confronted with the tranquil Lake Rotoiti which merged in beautifully with the distant blue peaks. This made us keen to start the climb up the ridge leading to the St Arnaud Range.

We wandered up through soft green beech forest, which slowly dwindled nearer the top. The last few feet were hurried ones for some of us, as we knew we would be awarded with the view of other ranges in the far distance and the beauty of our own range with its rocky ridge and tarns here and there, one of which we stopped by for a lunchbreak.

In the afternoon mist lurked in the valley below and occasionally rose to the ridge top giving an airy feeling and interesting shots for the camera. That night we dropped down to a large tarn where three very hot people decided to take a very cold quick swim and cold and quick it was. The evening was very mild and it was a pleasure to sit out eating our yummy stew and our custard which was tainted with the taste of Nic's rubber soles, after he put his foot in it (once again). The rest of the night was filled in by sitting around and singing. After a reasonable time we retired and, since it was mild, we decided to sleep under the stars, all except Marty who chose to keep dry.

The next morning was a bright one with the sun shining on the face of the ridge above us giving it a golden appearance. We all decided to take different routes to the top of its crest. This was where Marty and Nic hit the luck and Helen and I did not. After a lot of slow scrambling on loose rock we managed to get off an impassable section. Finding out, once we got down we could have dropped off a scree slope that was hidden further back along the ridge.

The rest of the morning was quite straight forward, traversing the range top getting a good view of Robert Ridge and the Travers valley. We visited our last large tarn for lunch where I had committed myself to taking a quick dip. That afternoon we were greeted with close up views of Mt Hopeless, Cupola, Travers and Franklin.

At dusk we hopped down to a very small tarn where we camped and had some interesting discussion. (Main topics were Food, Travel and?). Helen decided to take to the tent that night while the rest of us battled the night out by talking until it started to rain, so we invaded the tent, much to Helen's disgust. The following morning was overcast with a slight wind. Climbing to the top of the ridge we saw the mist parting below in the valley giving occasional glimpses of the Travers river.

We originally thought we would bash down a spur to the valley but instead we used a good scree run and thought this would be more fun. So it was on with mittens and overtrou and at last a use for our ice axes.

It wasn't long before we were down walking over the moss covered floor of the beech forest, listening to the many types of birds. The beauty of the Travers valley was memorable. We were at the head of Lake Rotoiti before we knew it and had a good lunch in a park board hut. Then sad to say it was time to take our last part of the trek, along the length of Lake Rototi where our car awaited.

Nic Bishop, Helen Dakin, Marty Robins and Dianne Stanley.

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3 – 4 MAY 1980 – MOUNTAIN FIRST AID COURSE

Blood was dribbling from the mouth, one eye was hanging out, the face was blue, the pulse fast but weak, the breathing laboured with strange sucking noises coming from the chest, there was a large open wound across the spine at the top of the back and the patient was deeply unconscious. Nearby lay a girl with a large cut in her boot and with her lower leg broken with bones protruding. She was conscious but in a shocked state. The fallen tree and the axe indicated a tree felling accident. Where to begin? What to do? HELP!? No, no one about could help. We had to deal with it ourselves. Apply the basic principles, Airways, Breathing, Circulation – the ABC of first aid.

The above simulated accident was the sort of thing we were dealing with and staging on the Sunday of a weekend first aid course organised by the Wellington Associated Mountain Clubs Search and Rescue Subcommittee. It was an excellent course with a very able chief instructor, Greg Phillips of the Ambulance Service. The course was held at the Salvation Army Youth Camp near Akatarawa. The accommodation was comfortable, the meals excellent and bush was available close by for field exercises. The cost excluding transport was only \$5.00.

Those taking part were: Terry Crippen, Eric van Toor, Grant Ramsey and Kevin Pearce.

25 May "THE WIZARD'S APPRENTICES"

Once upon a time a wizard sent his six apprentices into the lofty ranges, so that they might demonstrate their magic powers.

He watched them from afar in his crystal ball as they walked up a wide river valley, the floor of which was strewn with stones of all sizes. A small stream rushed happily from side to side of the valley and cooled the legs of the apprentices as they crossed.

Soon they were climbing up a great ridge covered in bush and they began to sweat as their toil was great. Apprentice Terry conjured up a wind which cooled the small band and refreshed them. But alas, when they left the shelter of the bush the wind grew stronger and they shivered with the cold. Terry lost 2 marks.

The mists descended and they feared that they might lose their way. Apprentice Trevor took a piece of clear plastic and fashioned a magic device with a red needle which always pointed towards North. They climbed on with confidence. But alas the mists thickened and the red needle pointed in all sorts of strange directions and was discarded. Trevor lost 2 marks.

Apprentice Don spoke forth: "I have fashioned a device which tells us how high we are. We can now go on without fear and when we reach the top of mighty Ohuinga this device will read 1690 metres and we will then know to turn right and follow the path which leads down". But alas the device read 1800 metres when they were still climbing steeply with no path to their right. Don lost 2 marks.

A clearing in the mist showed them their way and they strode on for many hours covering a great distance. The leaders paused on a grassy hill that they might rest and allow the others to catch up. To their surprise they spied apprentice Carol far ahead. This cunning apprentice had conjured up a track around the hill and had sneaked around unobserved. 2 marks off for using magic for personal gain.

Apprentice Kevin worried that he had not yet demonstrated his powers. "I will create infallibility" he thought "I will make myself infallible and will not make any mistakes and all our problems shall be solved". However the burden of infallibility fell heavy on his shoulders and they bowed under the strain. He sought to share this burden but in so doing he became guilty of "passing the buck" and lost 2 marks.

Apprentice Peter became tired and thirsty and conjured up a hut where they could rest under shelter and make tea. But alas when the tea was brewed there were not enough cups for all to partake of this energy restoring nectar and Peter lost 2 marks.

Score:- 2 all.

The Apprentices were: Terry Crippen, Trevor Bissell, Don French, Carol Cullen, Kevin Pearce and Peter Wiles.

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QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND – TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

A Saturday morning start from Palmerston North, with some delay as Ann couldn't read her newsletter properly, saw us arrive at Mangatipopo Road end at 10.30 am. The trip was down as an Easy one, but everyone was fit enough to do a bit more, so we had lunch at South Crater and spent Saturday afternoon climbing Mount Ngauruhoe in cold, windy conditions with icy snow near the summit. Saturday night we camped in South Crater in clear cold conditions, we were careful to move our boots inside the tents at night so they wouldn't freeze up – lucky we did as the billy of water had an ice layer on it in the morning.

Sunday was an interesting, but easy, day up and over Red Crater with a stop at Emerald Lakes to look at the steam vents and also to talk to Ann Flux and Wendy Christoffeles (now Wellington residents) who were on their way to Ngauruhoe. Ketatahi Hut was our destination and we arrived there for lunch, with hot swims in the afternoon. We were only 6 of 66 in the hut that night!

Monday was wet with a strong westerly wind blowing, so we donned wet-weather gear and headed back to the car, foregoing a visit to Mt. Tongariro. We called in at the Bishop's on the way home but Karyn was out rounding up cattle.

The six of us were: Ann Hayman, Jillian Strand, Gary Carter, Tony Craven, Colin and Chrissie Elliot.

31 May – 3 June – RED HILLS AT QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

The Red Hill Range together with the Little Red Hill Range lie to the west of the Olivines and Aspiring National Park. They are made up of unusual rocks called ultra-mafic (such as dunite and serpentinite) which are quite different from your usual greywacke and schist which make up much of the Southern Alps and the Ranges of the North Island. Due to the mineral composition of these ultra-mafic rocks (high in ferro-magnesium minerals) there is usually a lack of vegetation on these hills or just tussock or scrub, even at low altitudes. Also the minerals, when they weather, give the rock and thus the ranges, a pronounced red colour – hence the name. So quite interesting country to visit especially if you have some geological knowledge.

Conveniently Mothernature has moved part of this body of ultra-mafic rocks 300 miles to the north – by the use of the ALPINE FAULT – into the Richmond Range near Nelson Lakes. Thus we have the Red Hill Ridge (NZMS1 527) and nearer Nelson, Dun Mountain. So instead of doing a trip to beyond the Aspiring area, Queens Birthday saw five of us heading to the Richmond Range in the trusty MK1.

After camping at the Wash Bridge over the Wairau we began the steep climb up towards Chrome trig. The spurs and top of the ridge are pavements of large blocks of red coarse grained dunite. Travel was boulder hopping from one block to the next. With the weathering the coarse grained rock produced infinite friction so boots stuck to even the steepest slabs.

We traversed the ridge along to a tarn near Red Hill trig where we set up camp with good views of the rest of the Richmond Range – Tapuaenuku – the Seaward Kaikouras – the Raglan Range and the Nelson Lakes Peaks.

After a superb sunrise we ascended a face back onto the ridge and traversed to the highest point still on this beautiful rock – with the odd bit of cheval ridge to keep us busy.

Heading north we moved off the dunite into a saddle of green greasy serpentinite then onto a ridge of slate climbing up to near Mt Ellis. The mist began to come in as we lunched so we soon continued our traverse looking for a good place to drop into the Wairoa River (Left Branch) about 4000 ft below us. This descent involved a bit of navigation by torch before we reached the track and then the hut for the night.

The next two days of the trip involved following a southerly line along a probable fault – over Wards Pass, into Wards Pass Stream, over another pass, into Boulder Stream and thence down Boulder Stream to the Wairau Valley again. For the geology nuts Boulder Stream gave a mixture of ultra-mafic rocks, red and green sandstones and mudstones – an unusually colourful boulder hop.

So if you are wanting to get into some unusual country, try this area, or better still with more time the Red Hill Range down Aspiring way.

The raving geologist and the four people subjected to his ravings were (in random order); Roddy Henderson, Terry Crippen, Eric van Toor, Carol Cullen, Trevor Bissell.

7 – 8 June – SORE TEETH, COLD TOES AND THE SPECTRE OF THE BROKEN

Our friendly Trip Organiser allowed us a late start (6.30 am) on Saturday morning for this Ruahine trip. Combined with some musical-cars getting petrol and a pair of boots, this late start forced us to accept a lift from the Forest Service in their truck from Moorcocks Saddle 3 km up the road. Peter and Terry however were forced to run the distance by the others who wouldn't let them on board the truck.

The four of us who had decided to avoid the evil comforts of the new Pohangina Saddle Hut bade farewell to Trevor, Alan and Co and headed up into the mist and rain on Otumore. The usual mountain scenery forced us on without too much stopping to Howletts Hut, getting there at 3.30 pm. This civilised hour enabled us to enjoy the comforts of the hut with the odd sortie outside to collect water from the water supply collecting system – a billy under the down pipe off the roof.

Sunday morning we were greeted with a clearing in the mist so at 8.00 am we left the hut and headed up onto the white, ice covered Tiraha. With our wet gear from Saturday, the ice and one pair of rubber gummies, we soon noticed the lack of temperature in our toes. The traverse along Sawtooth Ridge was interesting with the mist covering Hawkes Bay drifting over the ridge onto the otherwise perfectly clear western side of the Ruahines. We had a Brocken spectre behind us for most of the morning with this mist.

We had an early lunch on Ohuinga before we headed down Black Ridge and Government Spur into the Tukituki and to the Mill Road. We arrived there at 3.30 pm in time for a billy of tea before the Pohangina Party arrived with the transport.

The four of us who got cold toes were: Mike Davidson, Terry Crippen, Peter Darragh, Chris Saunders.

P.S. For those of you who don't know what a Brocken Spectre is; it is when the sun from behind casts your shadow onto mists below the hill tops and a circular rainbow appears with your shadow in the centre of it. It is quite a rare thing to see in the hills and then it usually only appears for a short while.



COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

2 – 3	ROCKCLIMBING – TITAHU BAY OR MANGATEPOPO	E.
9 – 10	TOKOMARU CROSSING	M.
10	TOKOMARU CROSSING	F.E.
16 – 17	TAMAKI – MAKERETU	F.
	MAKERETU – HAPPY DAZE HUT	E.
23 – 24	SNOWCRAFT 1A RUAPEHU	E.
24	MAHARAHARA CROSSING	E.
30 – 31	MOKAI – PATEA – WAIKAMAKA	F.
	OTAKOTA HUT	M.

COMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER

6 – 7	SNOWCRAFT 1B RUAPEHU	E.
7	NEW HEREPAI HUT	E.
13 – 14	DUNDAS RIDGE	F.
	AVALANCHE FLATS	M.
19-20-21	SNOWCRAFT 2 EGMONT	M.
21	DAY TRIP – TO BE DECIDED	E.
27 – 28	SAWTOOTH RIDGE	F.E.
	BLACKRIDGE – HOWLETTS	M.



