



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

## NEWSLETTER

9/73

Hon. Secretary,  
Kevin Pearce, 74-129  
ext. 871.

Membership Convenor:  
Heather Crabb, 77-668.

### COMING EVENTS.

#### 27<sup>th</sup> September. CLUB NIGHT.

There will be a talk on Search & Rescue by two members of the Police Force. They will demonstrate T.R.3 Radios, stretchers etc.

At the Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms, 227 College St., at 7:30 p.m.  
SUPPER DUTIES: Tim Short, Raymond Mills, Vivien Mawson.

#### 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September. FIELDS TRACK -- VOSSELER HUT.

Up, up, up. Fun, Fun, Fun, Fun, Down, down, down. This is one of those trips that could be graded Easy or Medium or Fit – please yourselves what you do. Quite enough said.

Grading:	Medium	(easy or fit – depends how you look at it.)
Cost:	\$1.50	Depart Izadium: 6.00 a.m. Sat.
Leader:	Allan Stretton, phone 24-303.	

#### 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> October. HOWLETTS HUT – OTUMORE – MOORCOCK BASE.

Trampers are the men they used to be. It is rumored that some folks still disagree. Have we anyone in the club who would like to help Ian Hoare prove this statement to the disbelievers? (As the trip will be strenuous enough swords for slaying dragons may be left at home.)

Grading:	Fit	Cost:	\$2.00
Departure:	To be arranged.	Leader:	Ian Hoare, 83-448.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> October. POHANGINA SADDLE HUT.

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here (Izadium, 6.30 a.m.) .... As the Guiding Star led the 3 wise men so will Peter Darroch lead his flock up into the heavens to the Pohangina Hut. An easy day trip along a well graded track (Landrover Road) up to Pohangina Saddle Hut.

Grading:	Easy.	Cost:	\$1.50
Depart Izadium:	6:30 a.m. Sunday.	Leader:	Peter Darroch, 86-824.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> October. COMMITTEE MEETING.

For all Committee Members Parliament will sit at Sue Streeter's 32A Rangitira St., at 7:30 p.m.

13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> October. SCHORMANN TRACK -- PUTARA -- MANGAHAO DAM.

On this trip we offer participants mud that's good for the complexion, a good chance to study the local speciality in flora -- leatherwood from all angles and optional views of a considerable chunk of the Tararuas and Manawatu Plains.

Grading:	Medium	Cost:	\$2.00
Depart Izadium:	6:30 a.m. Sat.	Names to:	84-925.

20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. LABOUR WEEKEND. SOUTHERN CROSSING.

A crossing of the Tararuas is just what the doctor ordered to banish all pre-exam blues. As the leader has guaranteed the weather, as you are supplying the company and as the Tararuas Tops is THE PLACE how can this trip fail???

Grading:	Fit	Cost:	\$2.50 approx.
Depart Izadium:	6.30 Friday night.	Leader:	Tim Short, 76-906.

21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. KAITOKE -- ALPHA HUT

For those more sensible people (lazier??) a two day trip is to go in from Kaitoke to meet the crossing party at Alpha Hut and if needs be to carry them out.

Grading:	Medium.	Cost:	\$2.50 approx.
Dept. Izadium:	6.00 a.m. Sunday.	Names to:	84-925

25<sup>th</sup> Oct. CLUB NIGHT.

A member of the St. John Ambulance Association will talk to the club on the treatment of slight casualties. This talk will be accompanied by a film showing a first aider in action at the scene of an accident.

At the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College St., at 7:30 p.m.

SUPPER DUTIES: Sue Streeter, Stuart McLauchlan, Keith Margrain.

27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Oct. MANGAHAO -- NGAWAKARARA -- SCOTTS RD.

As this is a new area of tops travel north of the Mangahao and as Russ Johnson is to be your leader (remember girls, he won last year's Ardent Knight Trophy) an exciting weekend seems to be in store.

Grading:	Fit	Cost:	\$1.50
Depart Izadium:	6.00 a.m. Saturday.	Leader:	Russell Johnson, 87,777.

Also a medium trip to Avalanche Flats Hut will run on this weekend. Details as above.

NOTICES:

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Would those people who have S.A.R. forms please fill them in and return them to the secretary pronto. These are required to complete our S.A.R. list which could be needed at any time. Returning these forms quickly will assist our Search Contacts greatly. Some of you may find forms enclosed with your newsletter. You are invited to fill these in if you are willing to be called out on a search.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER.

Contributions will help the Editor/Typist immensely if they will proof read their own contributions and write them legibly, otherwise you may get a newsletter full of English as she is wrote!

The following is an unedited letter to the Editor:

To the Editor,

Comments regarding your "First Class Rangī Con?... Trip." Arriving up at the Rangī car park one morning and "Struth," there were three cars already there.

Getting up to the first rabbit trap which was about 10 yds off the track and "Struth" the poor opossum in it had a great chunk of fur missing from its side and was looking a little sorry for its self. "Struth" I thought, rather odd, some idiot has been at work here.

The day went by smoothly, "Struth," luckily they had walked past several opossums without noticing them.

Just before dark on returning to the car park and "Struth" there was the party of trampers had returned. "Struth" they weren't at all conservationist minded as "Struth", they had ripped two traps off trees to the side of the track. They were promptly reset. Oh well, there's still a few conservationist minded persons in this land trapping 7 days a week to help keep our Forests free of pests.

Signed,  
" A True conservationist.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

It has been brought to our attention, that during a recent search, our Man on the Right Hand of the Sun God was subjected to unnecessary hardships. Since he is not accustomed to such an ascetic life, we heard with astonishment, that he was not even given a cup of tea in bed. We must stress that a man with such a constitution and of regular habits, should have his socks warmed by the fire, served a much needed wholesome breakfast in bed, kept warm and provided with all possible home comforts, to keep him in peak condition.

We trust that in the future such offences/against propriety and time honoured tradition shall not be repeated, and urge all party members to treat Our Man on the Right Hand of the Sun God in a manner he is accustomed to.

Mother of Twelve.

(Our hearts bleed for Our Man on the R.H. of the S.G. particularly as we know he is so used to being able to call a marching team out of his wardrobe to administer these comforts. -- Ed.)

#### INVITATION

23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> November.

Members of the P.N.T.M.C. are invited to James Read's, 43 Pretoria St., Lower Hutt, for the weekend. James is hoping to have a party on the Saturday evening with perhaps some tramping in the Tararuas on both Saturday and Sunday, if someone can provide transport.

#### FOR SALE:

Pathfinder sleeping bag in good condition for \$20 O.N.O. This is a British model, down filled with a hood. Contact James Read, 43 Pretoria St., Lower Hutt.

#### BOOKS

Sometimes as we tramp along those well trodden bush tracks do we stop to think of the pioneers of early New Zealand bush life?

Books which might interest keen "pikers" are:

Tales of Maori Bush, by J. Cowan. (1st printed 1934.)

Tang of the Bush, by Kathleen Keene. The story of Robert McLatchie 1875 -- 1963 as told to his daughter, K. Keene, who dedicates it to his grandchildren, Queenstown. The author grew up as a girl on her father's farm and bush country near the township of Owaka. She married Rev. Percy Keene, a Presbyterian minister and after his death lived with her father in Queenstown. (Printed 1966)

Memories of Mountains and Men, by A.P. Harper. (Printed 1946.)

A.P. Harper was           Hon. member Alpine Club, London.  
 Hon. member N.Z. Alpine Club.  
 Hon. member American Alpine Club.  
 Member International Commission of Glaciers.  
 Member of International Commission of Snow.  
 Author of Pioneer Walk in Alps of N.Z. and  
 Camping and Bushcraft in N.Z.

A.E. Woodhouse, N.Z. Farm & Station Verse.  
 Sadly the wind blows by my hills  
 Chill at the rainstorms, swift the rills  
 And men from the plains say the grass is poor  
 But their words make me love my hills more.

Some time the folk come from town  
 For the hills look blue, when the valley's brown.  
 But the hills are grey and blue's the plain  
 And they take their love and go home again.

My love's in the hills, from their earth I sprung  
 And the song I love is a hawk's cry flung  
 Down the wind that sighs on a hilltop grey,  
 And a lone lamb bleating far away.  
 Donald Mcdonald, 1934.

The Kauri. A king among kings. Early use of native timber preservation and  
 regeneration of forests, how forests were destroyed. \$1.25 (magazine.)

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TRIP REPORTS

20<sup>th</sup> July. TIME PROGRESS CHART FOR A MUAC -- PNTMC COMBINED TRIP TO  
 DIGGERS HUT

- 5.20 Alarm go off.
- 5.40 Wake up with a start, ring driver who was supposed to ring you at 5.30.
- 5.55 Rush around frantically collecting edibles from flat into a pack.
- 6.05 Eat breakfast, lock up flat looking like Florida after a Hurricane.
- 6.40 Meet at Te Matai road, redistribute passengers.
- 6.55 Leave direction Pohangina and convoy.
- 7.10 "Slow down, you've only got a Jag behind you."
- 7.20 Navigators' pow-wow.
- 7.25 Switch on reserve tank.
- 7.40 Arrive at road end, wake up cocky to get permission to cross farm.

- 8.10 Set off across farmland
- 8.15 First blisters.
- 8.20 onwards -- several exercises in compass navigation.
- 10.00 Hit the bushline -- with a thud
- 10.40 See hut down an enormous drop.
- 10.55 Hit hut, have lunch.
- 11.15 Waterbabies go for a swim in river, rest of party reads Playboy and exercises lungs by singing.
- 12.15 The billy has boiled -- gulp tea and set off down river.
- 12.30 Echoing screams are heard as party waves armpit deep.
- 1.30 One bod trapped under a fallen log.
- 1.45 Party watchers Mike scale a sheer shingle slide. On return party investigates Mike's sanity.
- 2.45 Party investigates tent camp.
- 3.30 Arrive back at car park just as first rain drops plop down.

Six miles before Ashhurst. Run out of Petrol. This message Will now be sealed in a bottle and thrown out of the car window. We are not sure of our latitude and longitude, are hopelessly marooned and praying for help. If this message be ever found, please inform our next of kin.

(Anxious readers may rest assured that all met safely at Paddington Junction, and in thanksgiving for the miracle a burnt sacrifice of pancakes and tea was offered by Brother John.)

P.N.T.M.C. members and friends taking part: Karyn Bishop, Elli Schlee, Peter MacFarlane, John Titchener and Maggie MacDonald (of debating fame.)

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STANDARD PACK EQUIPMENT FOR ALL TRAMPERS AND HUNTERS  
FIREARMS AND HUNTING

P.C. Logan and L.H. Harris. 80c.

This small book covers all aspects of the handling rule of firearms, produced for the National Mountain Safety Council of New Zealand.

HOW TO SURVIVE

In the Bush  
On the Coast  
In the Mountains of New Zealand.      50c

Standard survival text book covering all aspects of survival in the open.

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18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> August. HOWLETT'S & SAWTOOTH OR "IS TIM THE NEWSLETTER JUDGE?"

(In a previous newsletter a price was offered for the best trip account submitted to our Editor. The last newsletter contained 6 trip accounts all written by a certain Tim Short. On August 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> the said Tim went on a trip with guess who? Hint: A committee member of his choice.)

The snow was soft and very deep. Keith (gallant lad) was breaking the trail. He had agreed to do this arduous and hazardous task only after we had solemnly promised that should he (heaven forbid) disappear beneath the snow we would return in the spring at the very first thaw in order to rescue him. We were making our way up to Howletts in the Eastern Ruahines. In the bush things had not been too bad as most of the snow was still in the trees

but when we came out into the open area before Howletts we were really bogged down. Although the weather was not bad (misty, cold but calm) it was apparent that the mighty Sawtooth Ridge traverse was not on. The hut log book showed that we were the first party to visit Howletts since April. However, from the condition of the hut it was clear that possums had been making frequent visits.

Due to a technical hitch, Sunday never dawned but we did enjoy a short stroll towards Tiraha in sunshine on what should have been Sunday morning. The mist then closed in and we retraced our steps down Daphne Ridge and down the Tukituki river to our car. The only noteworthy event was the manly way in which Ian (foolish lad) strode unflinchingly through the deepest pools of the snow fed river. The more timid members of our merry band went to great lengths to avoid getting wet above the waist.

Those taking part were Tim Morgan, Kevin Pearce, Ian Hoare and Keith Margrain. It is understood that another party, under the leadership of the great Tim Short also visited the area on this weekend.

30<sup>th</sup> August. MASSEY/P.N.T.M.C. DEBATE.

"TRAMPERS ARE NOT THE MEN THEY USED TO BE."

Massey Alpine Club took up the challenge, to prove that present day trampers are sissies, issued by our club who had the opposing view in the first interclub debate held on Club Night, 30th August, at the Society of Friends' Hall.

Maggie McDonald, Linda Blake and John Titchener provided many examples and reasons why they considered trampers are not the men they used to be. The sexuality of the male or lack of it in the present male trampers was fiercely presented. Despite many interjections in the appearance of "Grandma Tim" Massey Alpine presented their case.

In dress varying from the formal to that of the present day rugged, virile, male trumper Alistair Gaisford, Peter Sutcliffe and Paul Gandell presented a forceful case for P.N.T.M.C. that present day trampers are more than the men they used to be.

Mr. E. Elliott was guest adjudicator and awarded a decision on the debate in favour of the P.N.T.M.C. team.

The debate provided novelty, humour and interest for the much crowded hall of members and visitors from Massey Alpine Club. We all look forward to another similar inter-club activity.

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. EGMONT SNOW CLIMB.

Four members of the club spent a most enjoyable weekend up at Tahaurangi Lodge. A determined attempt was made on the N.W. face of Egmont. Nobody passed us! Lawson was knocking them on the head.

Our bearded gentleman of our mutual acquaintance discovered ways of making rude signs with an ice axe. This same gentleman was also seen to threaten and chase the lady members of the expedition with an ice axe when he lost a debate!

Trip members: Heather Crabb, Lawson Pither, Trevor Stretton, Sue Streeter.

It was proved on this trip that women (liberated or not) make better navigators than men.

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3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. TARARUA SEARCH.

Team 3.

P. Sutcliffe, L. Pither, K. Pearce and A Rawden (deerstalker.)

The whole thing started at 3.30 a.m. Monday with a phone message from Russell Johnson with instructions to report at the Police Station at 4.30. The above team reached Roaring Stag Lodge by midday when Kevin was withdrawn to take control of the search. The afternoon was spent searching the Ruamahanga Gorge which became progressively more difficult until after about an hour and a half the sides descended into deepish water and caused the search to cease due to lack of water wings. Involuntary swims of short duration had already taken place. No sign was found. On the return journey to Roaring Stag the lakelet about 80 feet above the river was located.

Tuesday: The Party proceeded up the Ruapai Stream to search the Haukura Ridge and Bivvy area. The story is to keep to tributaries which come in from the left for an easy route to the ridge. The bivvy is a typical 6 person job. A search was made below the bivvy and onto the ridge both without success or sign. The party returned to base via "The Bottles" and the old track arriving about 8:30 p.m. after a reasonably fast trip.

Team 12.

Bruce Lockwood, Sue Streeter, Trevor Stretton, Keith Margrain, Ina Te Wiata.

We were sent in on Monday night by control to Putara Hut. The following morning we headed for Ruapai, the last known location of the missing person, thence down to the headwaters of the Mangatainoka River, with instructions to search all the pools as far down as the Ruapai Falls, returning to base on Wednesday afternoon.