



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

# NEWSLETTER

6/77

Hon. Secretary:  
Janet Maesson, 73-421  
Membership Enquiries:  
Heather Crabb, 77-668

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### THIRD AND FINAL NOTICE OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for the year ending 28<sup>th</sup> February, 1978 are now overdue. By resolution of the A.G.M. held 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1977, subs were set as follows:

Junior (still at school)	\$4.00
Senior	\$6.00
Family (one newsletter only)	\$7.00

All members who have not yet paid their subs should do so immediately. This is the last newsletter that will be sent to non-financial members. Members not wishing to renew their membership should notify the Secretary otherwise they remain liable to pay the current subscription.

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### COMING EVENTS

ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE "SUPERSAVE" CAR PARK, FITZHERBERT AVENUE.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> June CLUB NIGHT

Mr. Leach from the Royal Forest & Bird Society will be giving an illustrated talk.  
7.30 p.m. Thursday, in the Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street,  
Palmerston North.

All welcome.

SUPPER DUTIES: John Williams, Glen Osborne, Bruce Parker.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> July MANGAHAO – HARRIS CREEK

A trip in the Tararuas near Shannon.

Leader:	Trevor Bissell, ph. 68-644
Grading:	Medium
Cost:	\$1.50 approx.
Depart:	6.00 a.m. Saturday.

3<sup>rd</sup> July MANGAHAO – HARRIS CREEK

A nice stroll for fitter members lead by a fit man.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, ph. 68-644  
Grading: F.E.  
Cost: \$1.50 approx.  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Sunday.

9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July WAIKAMAKA (RUAHINES)

A walk into the distant hills, or what is left of them. Come along, even if only to see the erosion.

Names to: John Carter, ph. 74-344  
Grading: Medium & Fit.  
Cost: \$4.00 approx.  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

10<sup>th</sup> July WAIKAMAKA (RUAHINES)

Come along on a nature walk and see the worst first and the best last.

Names to: John Carter, ph. 74-344  
Grading: Easy.  
Cost: \$4.00 approx.  
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Sunday.

11<sup>th</sup> July COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30 p.m. Monday at Keith Margrain's, 34 Milverton Avenue, P.N.

14<sup>th</sup> July PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Mr. John Cleland is a photographer by profession and a long standing friend of our Club. John has judged the Club's photographic competition for many years and is keen for us to expand our photographic skills. Club Members are invited to John's Studio for an evening of instruction and practice in close up photography. Bring your camera and some film. (Maximum of 20 people.)

Names to: Kevin Pearce, ph. 83-467.  
Place: Cleland Photo Studio, 99 Cook St., P.N.  
Time: 7.30 p.m. Thursday.

15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July WINCHCOMBE RIDGE

On this weekend we shall see plenty, do plenty and achieve plenty. (Expect the worst and bring storm gear and a good torch.)

Names to: Peter Darragh, FDG. 5633.  
Grading: F.E.  
Cost: \$3.00.  
Depart: 6.30 p.m. Friday.

15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July WAITOMO CAVES TRIP WITH THE P.N. CAVING CLUB

Arrangements by: Trevor Bissell, ph. 68-644.

Sixteen names have been received already. More names will only be accepted if there are cancellations.

Cost: \$12 approx., including transport, accommodation, gear hire and Saturday night dinner.

Depart: Supersave Car Park at 5.45 p.m. (There will be a 6 hour drive on Friday evening.)

Accommodation: In a 40 bunk hut belonging to N.Z. Caving Clubs.

Food: One evening meal provided. Bring your own breakfast and lunches. Plates and cutlery provided.

Leaders: 4 Caving Club members.

Gear: Helmets and lamps will be provided for 12 people. Extra torches etc. would be desirable. Rope ladders etc. by Caving Club.

Clothing: Full length wool desirable (e.g. long-johns) plus long overalls to protect clothing. (Caves can be cold and wet.) Boots.

If anyone decides not to go could they please let Trevor know so that another person can take their place.

16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July MOUNT HECTOR

How do you know "weather" your storm gear works unless you test it. (Otaki area of the Tararuas.)

Names to: Peter Darragh, FDG. 5633.  
Grading: Medium  
Cost: \$3.00.  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> July NAVIGATION WEEKEND

The ability to navigate in bush and mountain country is important for safety and the full enjoyment of the outdoors. This trip gets you off the beaten track and allows you to test your skills. Trips will be organized to match the fitness and experience of those taking part. Bring a compass and topographical map, NZMS 1 Sheet N 157, Otaki.

Leader: Keith Margrain, ph. 79-303.  
Grading: Easy.  
Cost: \$3.00 approx.  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

24<sup>th</sup> July WAITATAPIA

An easy day trip with easy navigation. (Otaki Forks area.)

Leader: Keith Margrain, ph. 79-303.  
Grading: Easy.  
Cost: \$3.00 approx.  
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Sunday.

28<sup>th</sup> July CLUB NIGHT DEBATE WITH MASSEY UNIVERSITY ALPINE CLUB

An annual event and usually a very entertaining one. Details next newsletter.

30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> July CONSERVATION WEEKEND

If you have any ideas as to what the Club might do please let Trevor Bissell (ph. 68-644) know.

Details will be given in next newsletter.

NOTICES

1. BILL OLSEN AND TONY MORRISON

It is with deep regret that we report that two former members of this Club are believed to have lost their lives on Mount Ruapehu on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 1977. We extend our condolences to relatives and friends.

2. LOST BUSH SHIRT

If anyone finds a bush shirt in a green nylon bag at McGregor Bivvy in the Tararua Range would they please contact Julian Dalefield at 68-644.

3. ACCESS TO PURITY HUT

If you wish to go to Purity Hut via the Mangakokeke Road and the Hikurangi Station (Grid Ref. 480 007 on the Onga Onga sheet) please ring Mr. M.F. Gorringe at 552 Mangaweka, in advance for permission to cross his land.

4. ENGAGEMENT CROAD - MAESSON

We are delighted to report that Vice President Peter and Secretary Janet are engaged to be married. Who said that nothing good ever happens in Committee?!

5. PAINTING OF RANGI HUT

Many thanks to member John Ogilvy for his efforts at Rangi, our Club Hut.

6. 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. (See Newsletter 4/77, page 5 for a note concerning overdue trips.)

## 7. GRADING OF TRIPS

All Club trips are graded according to difficulty. Generally this is done on the basis of the time it would take a fit trampers to do the proposed trip. Usually the actual number of walking hours is often slower than that of the hypothetical fit trampers. Also weather conditions can cause marked changes in the difficulty of trips. Consequently trip gradings must be considered only as a rough guide as to the probable difficulty of a trip. If you go on a trip which begins to seem as if it might be too tough for you, please advise the Leader. On no account push yourself to the point of exhaustion, and conceal the fact that you are doing this.

## 8. A PLEA FROM THE EDITOR

If you want something included in the newsletter please write it out exactly as you wish it to appear. Look at past newsletters to see where capital letters are used, underlining etc. Check the spellings of place names. Above all, read what you have written! Many items submitted just don't make sense.

Write on one side of the paper only – PLEASE.

## 9. HOROWHENUA SUB-DISTRICT SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE

This has been set down for 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> August. It is expected that two people from our Club will be able to participate.

## 10. PALMERSTON NORTH POLICE DISTRICT SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE

A tentative date of 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> October with an alternative date of 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> has been set. The exercise will take the form of a mock search, probably in the Ruahines. Our club will be expected to make a substantial contribution of man power.

## 11. RUAHINE STATE FOREST PARK DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

As trampers we make quite a lot of use of the Ruahines and we should therefore have some interest in the management of the range. The Forest Service has recently released a Draft Management Plan and is inviting comment. Copies of the plan are available for inspection at Public Libraries. See last newsletter for details.

## 12. FEDERATED MOUNTAIN CLUBS

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May a small gathering of mountain users was addressed by Dr. Fred Gallas, F.M.C. Liaison Officer, in the Deer Stalkers' Hall, Palmerston North. It was a very interesting talk and we were all surprised by the breadth and depth of F.M.C.'s activities. It is a pity that some of the other member organizations of F.M.C. were not represented as well as our Club.

## PAST EVENTS

### P.N.T.M.C. PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RESULTS, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1977

A good turn out was present last club Night for the judging of the Photographic Competition. Judge John Cleland commented on the general high standard of entries and offered many useful comments on photographic composition.

#### SLIDES

<u>Natural History, Advanced</u>	(4 slides.)	Lawson Pither) Russ Johnson) 1 <sup>st</sup> = Trevor Bissell 3 <sup>rd</sup>
<u>People, Novice</u>	(3)	Roy Wilson 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> .
<u>People, Advanced</u>	(2)	Russ Johnson 1 <sup>st</sup> Lawson Pither 2 <sup>nd</sup>
<u>Novice</u>	(5)	Nick Bishop 1 <sup>st</sup> Roy Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>
<u>Scenery Advanced</u>	(19)	Kevin Pearce 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Julian Dalefield 2 <sup>nd</sup> .

Novice (14)

Nick Bishop 1<sup>st</sup>  
Chris Saunders 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Peter Darragh 3<sup>rd</sup>

PRINTS (33)

(N.B. There was some confusion in sorting the prints and hence the anomalies below.)

Natural History Advanced  
Novice

Janet Maesson 1<sup>st</sup>  
Ross Meder 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>  
John Carter 3<sup>rd</sup>

People Advanced  
Novice

Ross Meder 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Janet Maesson 1<sup>st</sup>  
Lawson Pither 2<sup>nd</sup>

Scenery Advanced

John Carter 1<sup>st</sup>  
Peter Croad 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Ross Meder 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Carol Nash 1<sup>st</sup>  
Philip Beech 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Terry Beech 3<sup>rd</sup>

Novice

DOWN SOUTH IN JANUARY

Two members of our Club and two others, spent four weeks in January tramping from the Whataroa River in Westland to the Tasman Glacier in Canterbury. The trip took a round-about route via the Perth River – Scone Creek – Sealy Pass – Godley Glacier – Grey Glacier and Pass – North Butler River – Whataroa River – Whymper Glacier and Pass – Murchison Glacier and the Tasman Saddle and Glacier.

Side trips were made from various camps on route. Eleven peaks including Mount Tasman, were climbed on route by various members of the party.

Those on the trip were John Willaims and Keith Margrain (Club Members) and Paul Aubrey (W.T.M.C.) and Colin Elliot (M.U.A.C.)

(Keith and John described the above trip at the April Club Night – Editor.)

SOUTHERN CROSSING – ANZAC WEEKEND

Rain, strong wind, hail and mist. What more cold you ask for on a Southern Crossing of the Tararua Ranges?

Our party of four began its trip on Friday night tramping up to Field's Hut in the dark and arrived at 11 p.m. After a troubled night's sleep, listening to rats scratching and three morons singing Fred Dagg songs etc. we awoke to make a 9.15 a.m. start, arriving at Vosseler Hut in time for lunch.

Mt. Hector was the highest point of our trip (5016 ft.) and the view would have been magnificent if we could have seen through the murk. After a photo at the Tramping Clubs War Memorial and some snowball fighting between Colin and Anne, we moved along the open tops battling against strong wind and hail.

It was a very weary party that descended to Alpha Hut just after 4 p.m. but we soon livened up after a fire was lit. After a meal, we retired early with the fly tent over us to avoid being dripped upon from the leaks in the roof. Due to the strong wind keeping us awake during the night and steady rain in the morning, it was decidedly difficult to remove ourselves from our sleeping bags, so it was after 10 a.m. before we started our tramp to Bull Mound, then dropping steeply down to the Tauherenikau River for a quick lunch.

After a quick look at Cone Hut (which looked as though it had come straight from a fairy tale) we made our way to the Waiohine River. After Anne had shown us that the single wire bridge (with two wires at shoulder height for handholds) could be crossed, I gingerly crossed with trembling knees, followed by Don also with trembling knees and then Colin, who did a small dance half way across.

We intended to stay the night at Walls Whare but decided that the two fly tents should be utilized after having carried them across the width of the Tararua Ranges, so we selected a nice site under the pine trees where we prepared a slap-up 3 course meal of chipolatas, fondu-style, dipped in cheese and apple cider followed by the inevitable stew and pineapple chunks with instant pud. Later in the evening we took up an invitation from a School teacher with 8 pupils to tea and popcorn at Walls Whare. Back under our fly we finally wafted off to sleep to the sound of light rain. On Monday we made our way out to Greytown and then home.

On the trip were John Carter, Anne Flux, Colin Hoare and Don Scott.

#### 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> May HOLDSWORTH TO ?

"This track seems to be dropping a lot!"

"Hell! The compass says almost due south. Back up the hill!"

One good carbide lamp, one rather weak torch and three very tired individuals crawled into Powell Hut at 3.30 a.m. This was our excuse for a 9.30 a.m. start for Holdsworth and Mitre.

As a result of a 'summit conference' on Cairn (please excuse the pun) it was decided to end Saturday's snow plodding in daylight, i.e. at Mid King Biv. This is tucked in a bushy basin by a stream (about 100 yards from the map position) and may be reached from both South King and Mid King.

Most of Saturday's snow had melted by Sunday morning when the party left via South King, Baldy and the Atiwhakatu Stream.

Enthusiasts: Steven Moore, Julian Dalefield and Trevor Bissell.

#### 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May PURITY HUT, KELLY KNIGHT CAMPSITE

Saturday dawned fine and crisp so with high spirits and an anticipated fine week-end, we wound our way in Don's van towards the Western Ruahines.

We parked the van at the foothills and two hours later were at Purity Hut, taking in the glorious views before the cloud rolled in. From the hut we made our way up to Wooden Peg which, at 5,525 ft. was well above the snowline. The surrounding area looked very mountainous and rugged reminding me of the Southern Alps. After crossing Iron Peg, we started to negotiate some rather difficult ice covered ridges (anyway they seemed difficult to the less experienced members) and after some excellent map reading from Trevor and Kevin we made our way down a spur to meet the track leading to the Pourangaki Hut where we arrived about 5 p.m.

It soon became apparent that somebody was going to spend the night on the floor so lots were drawn with Peter losing out, much to his disgust. With Trevor acting as chief cook we commenced to work our way through a four course meal, starting with macaroni cheese as an entrée followed by two helpings of stew (slightly burnt, much to Kevin's disgust) then steamed pudding and custard which was superbly made by Kevin and topped off with peaches and instant pudding. With all that under our belts we decided to hit the hay.

The next morning, we made our way down the Pourangaki River with much feet wetting to arrive back at the van in time for a late lunch. Overall we had a good varied week-end, tramping, even if Saturday was almost a bit too much for two of us.

Those on the trip were: Trevor Bissell, Kevin Pearce, Nicky Bishop, Don Scott, Peter Darragh, Sarah Godfrey and John Carter.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> June GREATER NORTHERN CROSSING NORTHERN CROSSING

Would you believe rain and strong wind?

What about snow and wind?

Well, how about 2 feet of snow and a light wind?

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That describes three days' weather in the Tararuas. As a result two of the team piked at midday Saturday and went out over Jumbo. Another bod spent a day in Powell Hut catching up on lost sleep before doing a Middle Crossing. Those remaining spent Saturday afternoon in bed at McGregor and Sunday afternoon in bed at Tarn Ridge Hut. Monday's excitement included rock plus this snow on the Waiohine Pinnacles and a higher than usual Ohau River (wet pants.)

Starter: Julian Dalefield, Don Scott, Kevin Pearce, Carol Nash, Peter Darragh and Trevor Bissell.

6<sup>th</sup> June, 1977 DAY TRAMP TO POWELL HUT

We departed Palmerston North 7.30 a.m. (half an hour late) with the hope that the weather would be better on the other side of the range. Our hopes were somewhat rewarded by the fact it wasn't raining when we started, but these hopes soon diminished as we tramped on.

We arrived at Mountain House amid driving snow but still reasonably clean after navigating ourselves through the large bog. Cold hands and frozen toes were next experienced on the climb to Powell Hut during which several humorous incidents took place on patches of ice. We finally arrived at Powell Hut at 12.45 p.m. where a hot drink and lunch were had. Left the hut at 1.40 p.m. and had a fast trip back down to the car after navigating all of the formidable barriers along the way.

Those on the trip were: Philip Budding, Elizabeth Williams, Glen Osborne and Maireka van Reennen.

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STORM GEAR

From time to time Club trips are advertised as requiring "storm gear". In fact all tramping trips going above the bush line require "storm gear." What is "storm gear?"

Storm gear includes the following: Parka, overtrousers, overmitts, woolen singlet, shirt, trousers (long johns), mittens and balaclava. In short a layer of wool and a layer of waterproof over the entire body, except the face. (Jeans are not suitable.) The parka must be in good repair, waterproof, coming well down the thighs, sleeves coming well past the wrists, hood large enough to cover the chin and forehead. Many experienced trampers now carry two parkas – a light weight inner parka and a heavy weight outer parka. The light weight parka can be used on its own when it's windy or if conditions are not too severe.

Storm gear also includes a waterproof sleeping bag cover and a closed cell foam mat. Search and rescue teams always carry full storm gear unless they are told otherwise when they are called out.

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Great things are done when men and mountains meet  
This is not done by jousting in the street.  
William Blake.