

8th – 9th March POURANGAKI SAWTOOTH HIKURANGI

An ambitious trip in the Western Ruahines with plenty of ridge and river travel.

Leader: Nic Bishop, 70-217
Grading: Fitness Essential.
Cost: \$3.00
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

8th – 9th March WOODEN PEG – POURANGAKI HUT

Wooden Peg is a peak on an offshoot of the Hikurangi Range in the Western Ruahines and one can descend from there to the Pourangaki River to the hut.

Leader: Nic Bishop, 70-217
Grading: Medium
Cost: \$3.00
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

11th March SEARCH AND RESCUE A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the Land Search and Rescue Advisory Committee will be held at 7.30 p.m. on 11th March at the Palmerston North Police Station lecture room.

15th – 16th March MANGAHAO – DUNDAS RIDGE

Our recent attempt to do this trip turned back from Te Matawai Hut via Grave and Waioupehu because of torrential rain and flooded rivers. This time fine weather will allow good views of the Tararuas from the Dundas Ridge.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, 73-543
Grading: Fit.
Cost: \$3.50
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

15th – 16th March BURNS HUT

The trip proceeds a mile or so down the Mangahao River below the No. 2 dam and climbs a ridge to the south to the hut.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, 73-543
Grading: Easy.
Cost: \$2.00
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Saturday.

22nd – 23rd March DEVIOUS MIDDLE CROSSING OF THE TARARUAS

The object of the exercise is to cross the Tararuas via the waterways and saddles where possible. A possible route is from the Holdsworth access to Ohau via Atiwhakatu Stm. – Angle Knob Creek – Crawford Creek – Kelliher Creek – Murray Creek – Makaretu Stm.

Leader: Kevin Pearce, 70-217
Grading: Fitness Essential
Cost: \$6.00 depending on transport arrangements
Depart 6.30 p.m. Friday night.

22nd – 23rd March KAITAWA – WEST WAITEWAEWAE

A nice saddle leads out of the Kaitawa River into the West branch of the Waitewaewae and we will probably camp at Island Forks.

Leader: Keith Miller, 89-819
Grading: Medium
Cost: \$2.00
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

26th March S.A.R. HELICOPTER EXERCISE

The Land Search and Rescue Advisory Committee will be holding a static helicopter exercise at the airport at 7.30 p.m., Wednesday, 26th March to familiarise S.A.R. personnel with the use of these machines in searches. This will be held in the vicinity of the roadway to the central tower outside the Club hangers. Would those interested contact Kevin Pearce 70-217.

27th March ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club will be held in the Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms, 227 College St., Palmerston North, at 7.45 p.m. on 27th March, 1980.

Nominations for the offices of President, Secretary, Treasurer and at least five committee members will be accepted by the Secretary, Terry Crippen, before 7.30 p.m. of 27th March, or hand them to any of the Committee members.

29th – 30th March BLUE RANGE – BANNISTER

We will probably stay at Blue Range Hut on Friday night or camp somewhere near to Cow Saddle.

Leader:	Stephen Moore, 81-699
Grading:	Fit.
Cost:	\$3.50
Depart:	6.30 p.m. Friday night.

30th March MIKIMIKI STREAM

The Mikimiki Stream is a reasonably secluded little stream in the Eastern Tararuas and there is evidence of old logging tramways.

Leader:	Stephen Moore, 81-699
Grading:	Easy.
Cost:	\$3.50
Depart:	7.00 p.m. Sunday.

NOTICES

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES

F.M. Thompson, Mt. Stewart, R.D. 9,	Palmerston North.	Phone Sanson 748.
Frances Trewby, C/- Mrs. P. Pogram,	Box 34, Frasertown, Hawkes Bay.	
Ian and Kathy Hoare, 31 Oak St.,	Masterton.	Phone 85-904.
Katherine Farquhar, 17 Matipo St.,	Palmerston North,	Phone 64-297.

RESIGNATIONS

TREASURER

It is with regret that we have accepted the resignation of Treasurer Sarah Godfrey who has left to take up a nursing position in Blenheim.

Colin Elliot has been co-opted on to the Committee as Treasurer.

The resignation of Peter Stedman has been received as he has left for pastures new. We wish Peter all the best.

NEW BIVVIES IN THE RUAHINES – MAP REFERENCES

Kylie Bivvy is about 300 ft. down a spur to the east from the main range. Map: N 133 GR 655170.

Sparrowhawk Bivvy is in a hollow about 500 yds to the east from the top of the main range. Map: N 133 GR 637100.

Mistake Bivvy is about 100 yards north upstream from the junction and is on a ledge about 15 feet up from the stream bed on the true left. Map: N 133 GR 703255.

(From Heretaunga Tramping Club ? Pohokura.)

LIBRARY

There are many entertaining and informative publications in the Club's Library which is housed at 7 Tern Place. Chief Librarian Nic Bishop will be pleased to provide your bedtime

reading if you ring him at 70-217.

ALPINE SPORTS CLUB HISTORY

The Club has had this publication on order for some months and had hoped for its delivery last October. However, word has been received from the Alpine Sports Club that publication had been held up due to ill health in the production team and some rewriting, so they now hope the book will be available in April – May, 1980.

FOR SALE

Bookcase, 44” long by 41” in height. Ring Heather Crabb, 77-668.

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PAST EVENTS

20th – 22nd October, 1979 HIGH ADVENTURE ON RUAPEHU

Our home was constructed entirely of natural material. The roof, walls, floor, shelves and candle holders were all made of water! The water was frozen (snow in fact) and our home surprisingly warm and comfortable. We had dug our snow cave high on Paretaitonga overlooking the summit plateau of Ruapehu on the Saturday of Labour Weekend. The weather was, in the main, good on Saturday and Sunday. Although no technical climbing was done over the weekend most of the peaks of Ruapehu received a visit.

During Sunday night the weather deteriorated and by Monday morning our entrance tunnel was partly blocked by snow. We remained inside until nearly midday hoping that the weather would improve but this didn't happen. In fact the weather got worse. When we emerged from our cave we were faced by steep icy snow slopes, strong wind, driving snow and very limited visibility. Totally dependent on our compass we groped our way down to and across the Pare saddle to the chair lifts of the Turoa skifield was uneventful and we were soon back at the cars. These were encrusted with ice and it was necessary to fit snow chains for the drive down the road. The snowfall extended right down to low altitudes and there was even some snow on the road side between Ohakune and Waiouru.

Party members were: Kevin Pearce, Nic Bishop, Sarah Godfrey, Dianne Stanley, Peter Darragh and Marty Robins.

On Tuesday there were new reports of several parties overdue on Ruapehu. Good clothing and the ability to navigate allowed our party to find its way down while others were forced to shelter.

KAPITI ISLAND 17th NOVEMBER, 1979.

A full quota of 24 persons visited the Island in cool cloudy conditions. Many thanks to Trevor Bissell for arranging permits and transport.

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23rd – 25th November, 1979 WILD ANIMALS IN NEW ZEALAND.

ARETE FORKS – PARKS FORKS REVISITED

The inspiration for this trip came a few weeks before, while on the Carkeek trip. “Gee, the head of the Waiohine looks good. It'd be good to go there sometime.” The other part of the trip up to Mitre and then down to Arete Forks and up to Bannister sounded good too! So arriving at the road end on Friday night the two Young Pups raced from the still moving van (almost) into Mitre Flats. A great night – so we slept under the stars, fighting off small furry things with a tendency to smother.

No roof is conducive to early starts so we returned to the hut to say cheery farewells to our bleary eyed comrades and started up Mitre before 6.30. We were on Mitre early and soon heading down Table Ridge towards Arete Forks. Nic's first Club trip took him to Arete Forks. He apparently had difficulty walking for a couple of weeks after. I guess he's improved!

It was nice having a break by the river enjoying the surroundings and the warm sunshine. Anyway Bannister was next on the agenda so up we went in the heat. In spite of this the glacial remnants kept us interested; also a passing Jet Ranger (helicopter) took an interest in us which gave us a little more to rave over. Well, Bannister seemed to pass slower than obstacles earlier in the day but in the end we were over and water at Arete Biv was anticipated and then consumed with relief.

On route from Arete to Lancaster we saw the F.E. trip heading down Pinnacle Spur to Arete Forks Hut. We sat on Lancaster a while and looked and thought "What a great day." Then we had a good trip down to the flats and the head of the Waiohine. Here we camped feeling very pleased with our day.

Morning came all too soon and the river down to Park Forks was particularly beautiful in the early morning light. The track to McGregor from Dorset Stream- Waiohine confluence was elusive so we bashed up and found the track after a few hundred feet. About now we began to wonder "What time is it, will they wait for us? Etc." Over McGregor, Broken Axe and off to Baldy to Barton Track. Nic went ahead to see if the F.E.s were waiting while Marty blundered on nursing sore feet and wishing his gumboots had held together. Well Mitre looked great as the sun was getting low when I looked back from whence we came. Transport was waiting thanks to Nic Bishop and Marty Robins.

A.L. Poole
J.H Johns.

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7th – 8th December, 1979 A MIDDLE THAT WASN'T

Weather consists of three components – cold, rain and wind and the greatest of these is wind.

We went up to Fields Hut on Friday night and camped under the fly. There was only a little rain but periodically there were squally gusts of wind in the trees above our heads. Saturday dawned fine and we hopefully headed upwards en route for Maungahuka. Parkas were donned at Dennan. The climb onto West Peak was a struggle as we were now exposed to very strong wind with a small amount of blowing snow but good visibility. The ground was white with ice and snow. We lurched, staggered and crawled our way down on to the Main Range where we hoped there might be at least partial shelter from the terrible wind. No such luck. Reluctantly we turned down a spur into the head of Penn Creek and it was not until we reached the bush that we escaped the wind. We decided that tops travel was impossible so we went home.

Those who participated were: Paul Cooper, Don French, Kevin Pearce and Eric van Toor.

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DINNER AT RANGI VIA TRIANGLE, 1st – 2nd December, 1979.

Ian Hoare, Kevin Pearce, Don French and Peter Darragh started from Table Flat road on Saturday morning and tramped up the Oroua River to Triangle Hut where they spent a comfortable night. On Sunday they traversed to Rangī Hut arriving with big appetites in good time for a very good Christmas dinner which had been organised by Karyn Bishop. Thence home.

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JOHN'S EL CHEAPO TRIP TO MT. ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK – 1979/80

30/12 – With the promise of fine weather on the way, an optimistic group of six people gathered in Rangiora for the start of two weeks of tramping and sightseeing in the Mt. Aspiring area.

After leaving Rangiora, we made our way south via Geraldine and Tekapo, Taking in the sights en route. After arriving at Wanaka just after 5 p.m. we set about finding a campsite and selected a lovely spot overlooking Lake Hawea. The weather was so fine and warm that a swim was called for and this toned us up nicely for our evening meal. The high spirits in the group pointed to this trip being a good one.

31/12 – We were all up at the crack of dawn to be greeted by another cloudless day which promised to be a scorcher. By the time we had positioned the Holden in Wanaka and ourselves in Makarora, it was nearly lunchtime. Our previously booked jetboat soon sped us the 21 km up the Wilkin River to Kerin Forks. After lunch we donned our heavy packs (too heavy) and tramped our way up the Wilkin for 3 hours. By the time we reached the junction with Wonderland Stream, we were well and truly “done” with the heat and weight we were carrying. Thankfully we set up camp and prepared a special New Year’s Eve dinner of Chow Mien, plum pudding and custard and some wine. We saw the New Year in telling the usual spate of jokes.

1/1/80 – After a heavy dew which left our tent fly and gear very wet we decided to dry out later as the sandflies were atrocious though to give them their dues they do seem to work long hours, i.e. the previous night they were still “at it” after 10.30 p.m. After a quick stop at Jumboland Hut we wound our way through the bush for 3 hours until the confluence of the South and North Wilkin was reached. The Top Forks Hut is situated here. At this stage of the trip we would have liked to have looked a Lake Diana up the North Branch, but we could tell the weather was on the turn and it was imperative for us to have fine weather for climbing a 599 foot waterfall face en route to Rabbit Pass and the East Matukituki. (The Waterfall Face can be dangerous in fine weather and must not be attempted if wet or windy.) From the Forks Hut we commenced a steep climb up the South Branch for four hours until we reached Waterfall Flats where thankfully we made camp. We had a late dinner of bean stew (an import from the N.I.) and watched the ominous clouds brewing. It looked as if weather fickle would spoil our plans.

2/1 – the morning rain spelled doom to our Rabbit Pass crossing so reluctantly we broke camp in freezing wet conditions and back tracked down to the Forks Hut arriving lunchtime. We spent the afternoon relaxing in the crowded hut watching the snowfall.

3/1 – Thursday morning and the sun was trying hard to show through so to make the most of the day we decided on a quick look up the North Branch and an hour later we were looking at ice flows floating on Lake Diana. This slight is out on its own and well worth the side trip. Back at the hut we decided on an early lunch before a quick 6 hour tramp back down the valley to Kerin Forks and pitched camp on a lovely grassy shelf, out of the wind and giving a view over the river and surrounding mountains. As we expected to “hit” Queenstown the following night, we made a campfire to heat plenty of hot water to shave, wash hair etc. After our energetic day we all enjoyed a good sleep.

4/1 – Who would expect birthday presents and cards on a tramping trip? Well I (John senior) got both and tea in bed as well. We broke camp and went around the river bend to try our luck at catching the jetboat back to Makarora. We couldn’t believe our eyes to find the boat sitting there about to leave. Back at Makarora and a helicopter joy-ride later, we were boarding the bus for Wanaka and some shopping for the re-stocking of supplies (mainly lunches) for the coming Dart/Rees round trip. We picked up the Holden, (no vandal damage, thank goodness), and made our way over the Crown Range to Queenstown where we had a stroll around the town before the luxury of a meal out. This day turned out quite a memorable one, glorious weather, jetboat and helicopter rides, a look at Arrowtown and Queenstown and to top it all off, a beautiful campsite on the shores of Lake Wakatipu.

5/1 – Once again we were chased on our way by mosquitoes and sandflies and arrived at Glenorchy about 11 a.m. We left our car at the Boys’ Brigade Camp, a point nearly mid-way between the lower Dart/Rees tracks. In warm weather we made our way up the Dart Valley, across Mill Flat, Dans Paddock to finally camp beneath the beech trees and dwarfed by a high mountain of rock called Chinamans Bluff. (The name stems from the days when a Chinese population prospected for gold.)

6/1 – Those nasty sandflies were at us again so we were up at six and off to an early start to get a few kilometers under our belts before the heat of the day. About 11.30 we stopped for two hours to enjoy lunch and a cool off in the river. To spoil the quiet of the day we had five jetboats arrive but they were friendly sorts. Back on the track we climbed high up the side of Sandy bluff giving us a magnificent view of Dredge Flat where at the turn of the century gold dredging was in operation. With plenty of time up our sleeve, plus sore feet, we took it easy and reached Daley's Flat soon after 5 p.m. For those that follow in our footsteps, be warned, Daley's Hut is situated in a sandfly infested area so we moved on promptly to find a lovely campsite about half a mile further on in a grassy clearing surrounded by trees, a stream nearby and few of those accursed bloodsuckers. One of the features of nearly all our campsites has been an icy cold stream in which to bathe. Just after 10 p.m. G.W. and myself decided to cool it before bed so down to the stream and photographs to prove it.

7/1 – After some early morning mist the day turned out warm again as we made our way along a somewhat tedious Cattle Flat for 4 kms. This area is very large indeed and took us two hours to cross. Cattle are still grazed here though it is the furthest point up the Dart that they can be grazed. After the flat, the river narrows off and the track enters the beech forest to climb steeply for about four hours before descending to the newly replaced three week old Dart Hut. It is approx. six hours tramping time to the hut from Daley's Flat Hut. We needed an early night and took it.

8/1 – Today was supposed to be a rest day but it turned out to be one of the hardest of the trip. We decided on a day trip from Dart Hut to the Cascade Saddle which gives access to the Cullers Route and the West Matukituki. The Saddle at 5,000 ft. gives a magnificent view over the Matukituki Valley and Mt. Aspiring. The track up is scree and tussock, very patchy but well worth the four hours' climb. (Moir's guide states there are more cairns per area here than anywhere else in N.Z.) The route up also gives a tremendous view of the Dart Glacier.) Feeling like a different route down (and a little adventurous) we dropped down a stream gut that brought us to the edge of the glacier. We were slightly overawed by its immense size at close quarters and rather apprehensive at falling into some of its huge caverns from which emanated the occasional sound of the glacier as it flexed its tortured way over the glacier bed. It proved to be one of the highlights of our trip. We made our way gingerly down the side of the glacier and back to the hut, a 9½ hour trip.

9/1 – After a really good night's sleep we were ready to tackle the Rees Saddle. During breakfast we had a chorus of happy birthday for the benefit of Gary W. celebrating his 20th birthday, and we presented him with a suitably inscribed birthday card. The climb up the Snowy River from the Dart Hut is a real gut buster but 3 hours later saw us on the Rees Saddle. From the top we watched two people climbing up from the other side and what a surprise to find Sue and Lawson (P.M.T.M.C.) pop their heads over the top. It was a tremendous meeting so over a brew we exchanged gossip and information. (It turned out that they had been waiting for us at Cameron's Flat expecting us to arrive from the Waterfall Face but our abortive attempt meant we did not meet up as they had hoped.) After goodbyes we dropped from the Saddle and camped just above the bush line and still NO SANDFLIES. As a special treat, we let the birthday boy pick the dinner menu, chicken/veg. Curry and rice followed by peaches and strawberry instant pud. A very pleasant evening was had around the campfire, sipping tea and taking in the ever changing nearby snow-topped mountains.

10/1 – In beautiful weather, we headed down the Upper Rees to Shelter Rock Hut which is a real grotty hut with mice and not recommended though of course, we didn't stay there ourselves. (The rock shelter can no longer be used due to the river now flowing into it.) After a gorgy section we tramped out onto grassy flats and were almost at the lower Rees before we knew it. We made camp about 2½ hours from where we had left our car and enjoyed a general cleanup.

11/1 – After picking up the car we had a couple in the Glenorchy, (well the age of the persons anyway) followed by sightseeing in Queenstown and dinner. Deciding to get a couple of hours of driving under our belts before dark, we eventually camped in a rest area about 11 p.m. only to find our tentfly falling on top of us with a big gust of wind. As it was blustery and starting to rain we packed up in record time and drove on for another two hours or so until 3 a.m. where three people slept in the car and the other three on the ground with the fly pulled over. We finally arrived back in Rangiora just before lunch.

Footnote: Wilkin Valley – We were so impressed with the Wilkin that we could have and nearly did, spend our two weeks exploring the Valley and its side streams such as the Wonderland, Newland and the Siberia which can make a good 5 day round trip, (up Siberia, over Gillespies Pass and down the Young). All our party fully intend to return.

Dart/Rees – We can highly recommend this trip (sandflies apart) and the 100 km can be tramped in four days flat out but to allow for side trips, rest day or to just appreciate the beauty of nature then allow at least 7 days. The two valleys are very different, the Dart is much longer, has a higher rainfall and is more scenic. It is also more difficult travel but the campsites make it a trumper's paradise. In comparison, the Rees is flatter, drier, shorter and with little bush or trees in which to camp. The M.A. Park Board do not intend to upgrade tracks, stating that the round trip is for well equipped and relatively experienced parties only. None of the tracks are marked and the occasional slip makes good track finders a boon. These remarks apply to the Wilkin Valley also.

Trip Title – The title "John's El Cheapo Tour" originates from Gary W. who considered the cost of the trip quite cheap and it does show how economically 6 people in one car and trailer can travel 1360 km. Original costing was for \$40 including breakfast, dinner and pudding but the return trip on the jetboat bumped costs up by another \$10. Even so, with food, car and jetboat costs, the trip cost each person about \$50. Those on the trip were J. Carter, G. Weston, K. Wells and J. Chambers (R.T.C.) B. Cade, G. Mackay (PNTMC).

2nd – 3rd February, 1980, Waipawa – Waikamaka

A small group set off for the Waipawa Saddle in perfect weather, so perfect that by the time the upper part of the river valley was reached the heat beating up from the stones made frequent semi-immersions in the creek necessary.

The tarn on the Saddle had long since dried up but an attractive watery sound came up from the other side and after descending the creek for ten minutes we stopped for a brew up by waterfalls and pools one of which we used as a swimming hole.

Passing Waikamaka Hut we crossed the river and found a pleasant camping spot. Julie never before knew how popular she was – with sandflies. She was constantly followed by a large and attentive retinue which left the rest of us alone. The group around the fire was highly segregationist with the one beloved by sandflies restricted to side opposite everyone else.

Full moon, stars and no opossums made for a perfect night. After a leisurely breakfast we retraced our previous day's steps.

Those on the trip were: Julie Cade, Jan Donaghue, Peter and Gill Davies.