



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

**P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER**

April 1992 Edition

Gear Custodian

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE FOODTOWN CAR PARK IN FERGUSON STREET. IF YOU WANT TO GO ON A TRIP, PLEASE ADVISE THE LEADER AT LEAST THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OR WEEKEND TRIP, CONTACT THE LEADER OF THE SCHEDULED TRIP.

Members are reminded that a charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip, the amount depending on the distance traveled and vehicles used. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

Please sign your name in the visitors book. There is a door fee of 30c which includes supper.

The PNTMC committee meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 436 College Street. Meetings are held for all Club (and intending) members on the last Thursday of each month and the Thursday two weeks prior to that evening. The venue is the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North, at 7:45 pm.

TRIP LIST

APRIL					
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone	
<u>APRIL 4</u>	South Makaretu	Easy/Med	Perry Hicks	355-1393	
<u>APRIL 4-5</u>	Waitewaewae Plus	Med	Mick Leyland	358-3183	
<u>APRIL 11</u>	Ngamoko Biv / Loop	Fit	Daryl Rowan	356-4655	
<u>APRIL 12</u>	Rangi	Easy	Sue & Lawson	357-3033	
<u>APRIL 11-12</u>	Irongates	Easy	Dave Orbell	323-5145	
<u>Easter</u>	Day Trips	Easy/Med	Tricia Eder	357-0122	
<u>APRIL 17-20</u>	Otaki River	Med/Fit	Tony Gates	357-0990	
<u>APRIL 17-20</u>	South Island	Med/Fit	Peter Wiles	358-6894	
<u>APRIL 26</u>	Tukituki River	Easy/Med	Kevin Pearce	357-0217	
<u>APRIL 25-26</u>	Moorcock-Longview-Howletts (with BushTC)	Fit	Brenton Shepherd	06-376-8474	

Club Nights 9th and 30th

(Note the change of the date for the first Club night to avoid Easter.)

MAY				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
<u>MAY 2</u>	Harris Creek	Med	Tricia Eder	357-0122
<u>MAY 2-3</u>	Top Gorge	Med	Mary Crow	329-0749
<u>MAY 10</u>	Iron Gates	Med	Brian Lawrence	324-8552
<u>MAY 9-10</u>	Otaki Forks-Maungahuka	Fit	Jenni Madgwick	354-0536
<u>MAY 16 or 17</u>	Bruce's Hill	Easy	Greg Reid	0637-25878
<u>MAY 1.6-17</u>	Ruahines	Med	To be arranged	
<u>MAY 23</u>	Manawatu Gorge	Easy/Med	Doug Strachan	357-5732
<u>MAY 23-24</u>	Syme Hut Taranaki	Fit/Tech	Mike Johns	355-2162
<u>MAY 30</u>	Kapakapanui	Easy	Tricia Eder	357-0122
<u>MAY 30-31-1</u>	Rock Climbing	Technical	Jenni Madgwick	354-0536
<u>MAY 30-31-1</u>	Kaimanawas	Med	Peter Wiles	358-6894

Club Nights 14th and 28th

EDITORIAL

The Club meeting for March began with our club members own talks of Christmas trips and others. It looked like Peter Wiles and crew got plenty of sunshine and good views in the Ahuriri Valley, and Tony Gates and team did likewise at Waikaremoana. Paul Scheyvens talked of the elusive deer in the Ruahines. Lyndon Badcoe impressed us with his exploits of Fiordland wilderness. Colour slides are an excellent medium to show others about tramping - especially by such enthusiastic people. They are well appreciated at club evenings.

The other Club evening for March was presented by Danny Bernstein, who spoke and showed slides of the Appalachian Mountains. The Appalachian Trail takes several months to traverse (2000 miles!) - that's my kind of tramp. Thanx Danny.

The AGM was also held on the same evening and was definitely not boring. The supper (President's shout) was enjoyed by all. Either the catering estimates were spot on or those present really tucked in. As for business, the usual financial and general affairs were discussed and the club officers were elected.

They were: President Tony Gates
Secretary Mike Johns
Treasurer Peter Wiles

Committee: Mick Leyland, Perry Hicks and Nigel Barrett.

It may not be large, but the committee is a good one. Other Club duties found people to do them; the most popular position was supper duty! The Club is once again in good experienced hands.

Membership enquiries to Mick and Mike
Publicity: Mike
SAR delegates / Police contacts / overdue contacts: no change
Chief Guide: Tony

Recent Club trips seem to have the Ruahines. Plenty more to those favourite hills, and also to the Tararuas, where ever you wish to go. One highlight is our snowcraft course. The current PNTMC trip card expires in 3 months, so the next one will start to take shape soon. All of you prospective leaders please consider taking a trip or two to your favourite spot. It makes Club activities run a lot easier when a good trip card is organised in advance. Please contact Tony Gates if you have any good ideas for trips.

Weather has been a bit changeable recently (from rain to snow to blizzards already). With snow on the ranges during March, the Desert Road marginal during April - what is winter going to bring? Winter is in the air for sure. But that is no reason to stay at home - some of the best trips occur on fine autumn - winter days. Enjoy your tramping.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

APRIL

APRIL 30 Dennis Moore "Chinwag evening"

Dennis is a foundation member of PNTMC and has many stories to tell of club activities in the early days. Featured are tales and pickies of the old Rangi hut, track, and bridge (remember?). He has to be heard to be believed!

MAY

MAY 14 Marcel Hollenstein, on cattle farming the North Island high country. In fact on the foothills of our favourite Ruahine Ranges. Marcel sacrifices weekend tramps to chase sheep and cattle over the hills. At least that keeps him fit! Should be a good talk.

MAY 28 P.N.T.M.C. slides, of Easter trips and others.

Members' opportunity to show the best they have (or save them for the Photo Competition next month). Details next month.

JUNE

JUNE 11 Photo Competition

This annual competition will be judged as usual by John Clelland in his regular democratic manner, i.e. you, the members and participants, do part of the judging. Start considering your contributions early. Sections and rules to be published later. This evening is always well delivered and received. Not to be missed.

JUNE 25 Mike Hewett

Skiing in North America. Just to get you in the mood for winter. Bit different to skiing at Rangi. Mike toured and skied in many states while we were enjoying the Southern Hemisphere summer.

Also, we will try to arrange some re runs of previous well received speakers, and there is the annual Debate, Quiz, and snowcraft lecture to consider.

Other speakers that may be presenting talks;

- Snowcraft lecture
- Vaughan Keesing
- Trevor Meyle
- Karen Thomason

NOTICES

At the AGM it was resolved that the following were elected as officers:

Patron and Honorary Auditor: Lawson Pither

President: Tony Gates

Secretary: Mike Johns

Treasurer: Peter Wiles

Committee: Mick Leyland

: Perry Hicks

: Nigel Barrett

The committee proposes to do some co - opting so be warned!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The AGM further resolved that the subscriptions for 92/93 are to be Family members \$30, Ordinary members \$25 and Junior members \$10. Please forward your subs to the Treasurer ASP, please.

HUT TICKETS

The AGM briefly discussed the availability of hut tickets. The Treasurer has noted that in the last 6 months there has been minimal demand for hut tickets through the Club.

It was felt that some members may not be aware that these are purchased from the club at cost and a 10% discount to all other outlets (including DOC).

We propose to monitor the rate of sales and if the committee considers that it is not worth providing this service for members we may not continue procuring them.

GEAR HIRE

The Club's gear has a new home at Mick Leyland's place at 38 Pahiatua Street, Phone 358-3183. A schedule of items available and a price list will be produced in due course.

ROCK WALL

The Massey rock wall is fully up and running and is located at the Massey Recreation Centre. Give Jenni or Mike a ring for more details of its use.

VISITING NORTH AMERICA?

Danny Bernstein has kindly given us a few contacts which might be of interest to anyone visiting the Eastern U.S. and who might like to get into the hills while over there.

Appalachian Mountain Club
5 Joy Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02018
Ph 617-523-0636

(For making contact with tramping all over the East Coast)

Adirondack Mountain Club
RR3, Box 3055
Lake George, New York 12845
Ph 518-688-4447

(Tramping mostly in the northeast. Maintains two huts in the Adirondack Mountains.)

Appalachian Trail Conference
P O Box 807
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

(Responsible for the coordination and information on the Appalachian Trail.)

AMC Pinkham Notch Visitor Center
P O Box 298
Gorham, New Hampshire 03581
Ph 603-466-2727

(For information and reservations for the Appalachian Mountain Club hut system.)

THE BISSELL COLLECTION

Trevor's father Bill Bissell has donated Trevor's gear to the club. If you want to acquire any of this gear we would appreciate it if you give an appropriate donation to the club.

The available gear is roughly as follows:

1 X 9 mm rope nearly new and in good condition (length not known at this stage)

2 X billies

1 X Coleman white spirits burner (a real goer) and fuel bottle

1 or 2 ice screws

Assorted carabineers, stitch plate and descender

1 X harness

Plastic Koflach boots size 7 in good condition

1 X snow shovel

So have a look and make an offer

PAPER QUALITY

Members will notice in this or perhaps the next newsletter, that the paper has changed to an inferior and thinner grade. This is not an economy measure taken by the Club. Instead times are regrettably changing - foolscap duplicator paper is no longer available (or that's what I am told by the supplier). When I started printing the newsletter (not that many years ago surely), duplicator paper came in at least 6 colours and in 2 weights. So we will have to live with it.

NEW MEMBERS

The Club introduces Trevor Meyle to members as a new member. Trevor may be contacted at: C/- RAP 1RNZIR

Linton Army Camp

Linton

Phone: 351-9471

ADVERTISING

Members will find in this newsletter for the first time for more than 10 years - advertising. Everyone will have their own views on the merits or otherwise of this form of communication. We intend to keep it low key. However, the committee has carefully considered the issue, and members can be assured that it is financially advantageous to the club.

TRIP REPORTS

MAKARETU HUT TRIP - 4th April

The week had ended with a cold snap and we could see a good cover of snow on the main Ruahine Range as we drove to the end of the Ngamoko road. Discussion about the sanity of our trip took place as we changed in a bitterly cold southerly, but we were soon tramping the old 4 wheel drive track up the ridge. The track sidles around the ridge system above the head waters of the Mangatewainui and Manawatu rivers. You pass through second generation growth - testament to man's early farming attempts in this area.

Quite overgrown in places, it is just a case of pushing your way through the flax bushes to find the next open patch of the route. Eventually, we reached the turn-off to the Makaretu Stream, where Greg and Malcolm decided to return to the cars. The rest of us headed down the now open track to the Makaretu. In the stream the track has quite a few easy sidles and is open travelling. At the hut for lunch, the sun warmed us as we took an enjoyable break from the cold of the ridges above. Someone had left a leg of venison which had just turned black in the meat safe. (Good eating according to Lou.) We then quickly retraced our steps, through the soaking undergrowth, scudding showers and southerly winds to the welcome sight of the cars. The Norsewood Hotel was visited on the return trip to enjoy the fire and help us recover from the days dehydration. We were Steve Glasgow, Gregg Reid, Perry Hicks, Malcolm Parker and Lou Pritchard.

MITRE FLATS / PEAK - 7/8 March

We set off early on Saturday morning with a weather forecast which was not the best. As we drove we could see high cloud and the ranges were clear, but would it hold off for long enough? At the road end we saw the tangled mess of the wire bridge which used to span the river, just before the hut. Now we definitely did not want it to rain. We made good time into the hut and took an early lunch before preparing to head upwards. The rain appeared to be moving in from the Tasman, so it was a race against the weather. We powered up the track and as we got into the open it started to rain and turned cold. We continued on only to have Derek take crook a few hundred metres short of our target. We pushed on as Derek returned down the track. We arrived on top about 3 pm to be bathed in sunshine - with pleasant conditions and a view of all the ranges!!

After a photo session and snack we headed back down to the hut for tea and a good night's sleep. The tea was good, but the sleep wasn't due to the party on the doorstep. Next day was just the walk out to the road and off home.

We were: Mike Johns, Derek Sharp, Richard Lockett & Tricia Eder.

STANFIELD HUT - 29th March (Walk Week Trip)

The day dawned fine with a bit of a breeze. We departed the car park less one person and headed off for the road end. At the road end we discussed the possibility of there being very strong unpleasant winds on the track up the small hill. The track goes along the top parallel to the river and then drops back into it just before the hut. We decided to brave the wind and headed off, only to find we had a fit bunch of trampers who made it to the hut in an hour 15. At the hut we were joined by 70 Forest and Bird people from Napier. It made it a bit crowded. We decided to push on to the saddle which leads down to Cattle Creek Hut to get a view of the hills. We then headed back down the valley via the river to give everyone wet feet and then back to the cars.

We were many:

Mike Johns, Tricia Eder, Densie Webster, Grant, Watkins, Jeff Ploughman, Christine Kelly, Judy and Peter Stockdale, Michelle Reaks, Sarah McLean, Wendy McMillan, Hermine, Mick Leyland and Marion Leyland.

A FAV'RITE SPOT

The Pohangina Valley is a fav'rite spot for many of us. It is close to town and has a great variety of terrain and botany, from the best to the worst (depending on your opinion.) There are several delightful huts, a few tracks and the famous Takapari Road along the southern edge. Our destination for the weekend was Centre Creek - a major tributary of the Pohangina. River.

The motorcycle struggled up Takapari road. We left it beside the road and tramped way way down to Centre Creek bivy - in should I say "doubtful " weather. The weather looked even more "doubtful" from inside our pits - you know, rain lashing down and wind howling about the valley. Paul practised his fire lighting skills, sending smoke signals inside the bivy, and Tony burrowed himself into what must have been a pretty good book. Such is tramping.

To be honest, we knew the weather would not improve. Only one thing for it - make a dash for home before dark! Surprisingly, there were a few brief moments of sunshine on the way home. The motorcycle was a welcome sight, and the car even more so.

But the Pohangina Valley is still a fav'rite spot for Paul Scheyvens and Tony Gates, so much so Paul that he returned for more punishment the following weekend - but that's another storey.

THE 1992 MACPAC KAWEKA CHALLENGE

A collection of words that can be used to describe the 1992 Macpac Kaweka Challenge:

Planning, Training, Registration
Electrolytes and Power Bars
Teddy bears and ties
Speedos, running shoes and lycra
Boots and bushshirts
Start! Run ... jog ... walk ...
Steep grunt up the spur
The field stretches out ahead
First checkpoint
We're only here for the T-shirt
Land of contrasts
Silent beeches
Windswept tops
Far horizons
Pinus Contorta
Diverted to shorter course
Steep descent
Running, sliding, racing
End of the day
Weary body, sore feet
People, food, familiar faces
Campfire conversations
New friends, old acquaintances
Talk of gear and trips
Of plans for the future
Day 2, drizzle, anticipation
Indian file up the hills
Runners pass us by
Changing scenery
Bush, Manuka, Pines
The end is just around the corner
Run the last stretch
Cheering crowds
Finished!
Smiles, Relief, Oranges
Back again next year?

Many thanks to Kathy C for letting herself get talked into this and all the other PNTMC bods that were there.
(The Wandering Yeti) Gavin Redpath

Note also, congratulations to Jenni and her partner. It is understood they won their section event.

CATTLE CREEK - MID POHANGINA 15th - 16th March

I left Palmerston North at three o'clock on Friday, with intentions of getting to Cattle Creek Hut by that night. There was not a big turnout of trampers for this trip, yet the weather was brilliant and the area is very nice. Anyway, I strolled up the Tamaki to Stanfield Hut, to find the renovations at Stanfield Hut most impressive. The hut is now complete with wood stove, sink, water tank and even a writing table. (What a difference the renovations have made to this hut - from a dog box to a bush whackers paradise.

With no time to waste, I raced up towards Cattle Creek Hut. I stopped briefly to watch a few deer feeding and enjoying the sunshine on the large open faces. I reached Cattle Creek Hut - finding the track down the slip by the hut interesting - or was it a track? On Saturday morning, an early start was made at day break to head towards Mid Pohangina Hut and area, which included a bit of cross country work on the large faces above the Pohangina River, just absorbing the thick scrub and stinging nettle. What a great place. By midday, my time was up, so I walked out via Cattle Creek, just catching the weather changing and giving some thought to my return trip.

Paul Scheyvens.

TAMA LAKES – 22 - 23 February by Peter Wiles

The weather on Friday was dreadful but the forecast assured us that the weekend would be fine.

As soon as Steve and Jenny arrived at my place we were off. We met up with Dieter along Kimbulton Road. The weather was a complete contrast to the previous day - beautiful. The Desert Road was closed for the day to carry out major repairs / upgrading work. Could we get to the Waihohonu turn off? We decided to give it a go. It was great bowling along the Desert Road with no other traffic around, until we came to a collection of trucks and excavators blocking the road. A quick exit from the car and a closer look at developments revealed that once a couple of the trucks had moved, we could get through.

We had a brief stop at Waihohonu Hut before taking the track behind the hut which leads to Oturere. Once on the ridge top we left the track and changed direction for Tama a few kilometres to the West. We had lunch on the ridge just before it begins the rise to Tama. We decided that since the day was so perfect we would have ago at ascending Ngauruhoe from the saddle on the northern side of Tama.

At a prominent rock we emptied our packs of all the un-necessary gear and started trudging over the rocks towards Ngauruhoe. Steve was in his element here and made tremendous progress with Dieter not far behind. I struggled to keep up with Jenny - feeling dizzy. Even so, we completed the climb in 2 hours from our gear dump. There was no one else around. We inspected the crater and admired the view before heading down. Steve excelled here too - managing to find good scree for much of the descent.

At the bottom, we repacked our gear on board, while Dieter gave us a recital on his horn. The echo off the bluffs on both sides was quite something.

We reached Upper Tama Lake shortly after 6 pm. Once we had erected our tents, it was into the dinner preparation routine. As the light faded and the lake settled like glass, Dieter gave us another horn performance - the reverberation around the lake taking several seconds to die away. Very memorable.

Next morning, a westerly breeze had come up with a few patches of low cloud wafting in from the west. The initial climb out from the lake was rather hot work but we were rewarded with the breeze once on the ridge crest. After passing Lower Tama lake, joined up with the round the mountain track. Here I did a short side trip on my own to visit the lava field and associated crater which lies at about 1400 - 1500m on the north side of Ruapehu. For a while I was not sure whether I would find the crater nor was I sure how I was going to find my way back amongst the numerous pressure ridges of old lava. Anyway, after an hour I located the crater, walked up and circumnavigated its rim and set off on my way back. Without clear visibility I would have had some difficulty, but even so I ended up a couple of 100 m too far to the west of my starting point. Shortly afterwards I rejoined the track. Meanwhile the others had progressed more sedately back down the track to Waihohonu Hut. There we met up for lunch and a rest out of the heat.

The rest of the trip was routine. At the car park, we bid farewell to Dieter and headed back to PN.
Team: Jenny and Steve Glasgow, Dieter ? and Peter Wiles

SOME TECHNICAL CLIMBING ON THE WILD(ER) SIDE OF RUAPEHU - 14 March

Dawn brought one of those rare, crystal clear Saturday mornings, with the stars making a vivid display. We had left PN at about 5 am and after detouring through Ashhurst were headed for the Tukino road end on Ruapehu. After the road crosses the Round-the-Mountain Track we thought our progress on wheels was going to be terminated by a locked gate. However Lindon's Subaru was more than a match for the obstacle by making a minor "off-road" detour round the problem. Apparently the gate has been locked to curb vandalism at the Tukino Lodges. (A key can be obtained at the Turangi DOC office.) On reaching the road end we organised our gear and headed upwards at about 8.30 am. We tended to follow different routes towards Te Heu Heu. Initially Peter and Lyndon followed the ridges to the south while Derek and Tony got stuck into the snow as early as possible on the Mangatoetoenui Glacier. Peter continued sidling under the bluffs while Lyndon headed towards the others. As we approached the eastern edge of the plateau under Te Heu Heu, we split again Tony and Lyndon took the indirect but longer route to the summit, while Derek and Peter investigated the more direct route. There was still a uniform coverage of snow on the Plateau and the ice cave of last season was closed up or otherwise defunct.

Just before lunch we all regrouped near the Te Heu Heu summit. Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe stood clear above the cloud layer out to the west. Tony brewed up for lunch while we sat in the sun out of the breeze.

We descended down the ice slope to the west of Tukino (Peak) onto the Plateau. The ice was hard, steep and intimidating. The situation was complicated on the one hand by a shortage of gear between us and a crevasse cutting across the upper slope followed by another cutting the lower slope. We used a snowstake anchor at the top with icescrew runners. A shortage of hammers meant that we had to rotate the gear round. This in part resulted in much time being consumed. Derek and Tony investigated an ice cave with Lyndon and Peter were belaying one of the sections. A substantial further delay was caused when Peter eventually discovered that an ice axe will not pass through a carabineer. Be that as it may, Derek seemed to thrive in the conditions. The lower slope was the more difficult, very hard blue - grey glassy ice with minimal axe and crampon penetration at an angle of nearly 60°. Rockfall added to the drama, with both Peter and Lyndon being hit by cricket balls whizzing past.

Once onto the Plateau, it was a rapid walk down the Mangatoetoenui Glacier to the rocks and back to the car.

We arrived back at Ashhurst at about 7.45 pm in time for a well earned rest and dinner.
Team: Lyndon Badcoe, Tony Gates, Peter Wiles and Derek Sharp.

COW CREEK HUT - Anon.

The newsletter said "to Roaring Stag",
But I had been there - my enthusiasm lagged.
Why not go to Arete Forks, I did say,
But that will have to wait for another day.

Minus my boots, a tape and a tent,
Cow Creek was the place we went,
Not Cattle Creek as Bob had thought,
He soon realised the wrong map had been brought.

David brought along the family pet,
And Kiriwhakapapa road end was where we met.
Blue Range was up the track,
So we lumbered off under our packs.

Huey was kind to us that day,
We ate our lunch while soaking some rays.
A few hours later we reached the hut,
Which was occupied by a growling mutt.

A good campsite was therefore selected,
Where two flies were soon erected.
The afternoon was spent down by the river,
Those that went swimming were seen to shiver.
Some trout were seen in a pool,
But I'd also forgotten my rod and spool.

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

Yes it's true, Alp Sports has gone bust and are no longer offering their friendly service to the Manawatu. However, don't despair!! A new shop has opened and will continue to provide you with the friendly service you've always enjoyed. MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT is a new shop in Palmerston North, picking up where Alp Sports left off. Our store is at 14 THE SQUARE, next to the ARTHUR BARNETT building, and is run by the familiar smile of Hilary Hurst and her team of helpful assistants. Please feel welcome to drop in and visit us, have a look through the shop, and discuss ways in which we can help you with your outdoor recreation requirements.

PNTMC
Box 1217
Palmerston North

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Permit Number
286
Palmerston North

TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FROM

TONY GATES

26 MARCH 1992

P.N.T.M.C. has continued to operate in a similar manner to previous years. We are a small, active Club with a large variety of activities, many of which are traditional. The past year has been a good one for P.N.T.M.C. It is my pleasure to present my Presidents report for the 1991/1992 year.

MEMBERSHIP currently stands at 70 (financial), which is slightly less than this time last year. Some members are very active, tramping at least once per week, but most are seen on Club activities approximately once per month. Proportionally, we are a very active Club.

There is always a membership turnover, and always new faces at club evenings and on tramps. It is sad for me to see some people loosen their association with P.N.T.M.C.

THE COMMITTEE administers and organises the Club and its activities. It possesses a wealth of skills and experience that a great deal of thanks are owed. I sincerely hope their work is appreciated.

My job has been Chairman of committee and Club meetings, and at least attempting to organise Club activities. **Peter Wiles** looked after the club's financial matters as well as editing and distributing the Newsletter. **Brad Owen** was secretary, **Monica Cantwell** sorted out publicity, **Mary Crow** produced numerous suppers, **Tricia Eder** handled membership enquires and was our Search and Rescue contact with **Mick Leyland** and **Linda Rowan** (not on the Club committee), and **Mike Johns, Doug Strachan** and **Dave Orbell** served on the Committee. Outside the committee, **Daryl Rowan** was gear custodian, **Lance Broad** our conservation spokesman, and **Lawson Pither** our Auditor.

Committee work outside this Club's administration included some general correspondence to D.O.C. and F.M.C. regarding such matters as hut fees, and our submission on the Ruahine Draft Management Plan.

ACTIVITIES. TRIPS continued much the same as previous years, with one or two activities each weekend, and a few longer trips. Emphases of trips reflects demand. 80 organised Club trips went into the hills, with an average of between 4 and 5 participants each. We may not specialise 'in quantity, rather quality. Despite sometimes "inclement" weather virtually every weekend saw a P.N.T.M.C. trip in the hills. Most tramps of course go to nearby areas, but there are always a few to further afield. There were trips to; local areas, all over the Ruahines (of course), the Tararuas, Kawekas, Tongariro, Egmont, and Urewera National Parks, the Rimutaka/ Orongorongo, and the depths of the Southern Alps. All grades were catered for. Tramping and climbing were of course the most popular activities, and there were many other related "outdoor" activities such as; hunting, skiing, rock climbing, caving, cycling, mountain marathons, and kayaking/ canoeing that P.N.T.M.C. members participated in. The annual snowcraft course was as popular as ever, as was the police organised SAREX. There were two real life searches involving Club members in the Ruahines, (both of course ended as desired), and two gourmet trips.

CLUB EVENINGS have been of an extremely high standard recently. We have enjoyed 20 Club evenings, most of which have been presented by Club members. Dave Barker, Linda Rowan, Peter Stockdale, Peter Wiles, Tony Gates, Lyndon Badcoe, and Paul Scheyvens have all presented slide shows, and there have been the traditional Debate, Quiz, snowcraft lecture, photo competition, Xmas dinner, and BBQ. Outsiders Phil Cawley, Peter Taylor, Colin Sharp, Hugh van Noorden (c/ M.T.S.C.), Isabelle Udy, and the famous Don French (supported by Peter Barnes and Darryl Steel) have all presented Club evenings. Not all meetings are formal and organised, but they are enjoyed by all participants. There are many more excellent Club evenings planned.

PUBLICATIONS have been of an extremely high standard recently, as the monthly newsletter goes from strength to strength. It is really a credit to the contributors, the editor, and the entire Club to produce such a newsletter. Some editions have been 12 pages long, and one has even sported photo illustrations. Two trip cards have been produced. All of these publications go a long way to publicising this Club.

Once again we subscribed to "Alpine Calendars", so providing a group discount to customers. Through the P.O. box, some other up to date publications are available.

Roger Redmayne, an ex P.N.T.M.C. member and a real stalwart, met an untimely death in the Himalayas last year. We are often reminded of our vulnerability in the hills. Enjoy your tramping, and always take care.