



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

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

JULY 1995 Edition

| | | |
|---|------------------|----------|
| President | : Terry Crippen | 356-3588 |
| Membership Enquiries | : Jenny Prichard | 358-2217 |
| | : Nigel Barrett | 326-8847 |
| Gear Custodian | : Mick Leyland | 358-3183 |
| Newsletter Editor & Newsletter Distribution | : Peter Wiles | 358-6894 |

ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Mick Leyland : Ph. 358-3183
Daryl & Linda Rowan : Ph. 356-4655
Sue & Lawson Pither : Ph. 357-3033

TRIPS OFTEN LEAVE FROM THE FOODTOWN CAR PARK IN FERGUSSON STREET UNLESS THE LEADER ARRANGES OTHERWISE.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING 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.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A DAY TRIP MID-WEEK SEE DETAILS BELOW, OR RING Lawson and Sue Pither (357-3033), or Monica (326-9691), Nancy (358-8241), John (358-3513).

Trip Grades

Grade of trips can depend on many factors, most especially the weather and state of the track. As a guide, a reasonably proficient trumper would be expected to cover the graded trips in about the following times: Easy (E) 3 – 4 hours, Medium (M) 5 – 6 hrs, Fit (F) about 8 hrs, Fitness Essential (FE) >8 hrs. (Tech) refers to trips graded technical requiring either special skills and / or gear.

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.

Club 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 unless otherwise notified in the newsletter.

The PNTMC committee meets on the first Thursday of each month.

SCHEDULED EVENT LIST

| Date | Trip | Grade | Leader | Phone |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------|----------------|----------|
| JULY 15-16 | Lake Dive, Egmont | M | Malcolm Parker | 357-5203 |

Depart 7 am. From Dawson Falls we head up to Kapuni Lodge and across the Tussock on the RTM track before dropping down to the hut. Return on Sunday via the lower track.

JULY 16 Herepai Hut E/M Judy Callesen 357-0192
Depart 7:30 am. A stroll up from the Mangatainoka roadway, NE Tararuas, to Herepai Hut and if conditions permit onto the tops for a view.

JULY 18 Tuesday Snowcraft 1 evening at Terry's place (see details below.)

JULY 20 Thursday day trippers Phil Pearce 354-6687

JULY 22-23 Snowcraft 1. Rangipo, Ruapehu M/F Nigel Barrett 326-8847
See details below.

JULY 23 Toka, Ngamoko Range MIF Alistair Millward 356-9612
Note this trip has been postponed until Saturday 5th August.

JULY 27 Thursday day trippers Dug Wakeling 323-4127

JULY 27 Club night Rock climbing, Massey Wall (Bruce Van Brunt 328-4761) Instead of our usual meeting place, we will converge on the Massey Recreational centre (top end of the Loop Road) around 7:45 to have a play on the recently extended climbing wall. This should be good fun and instructive. Be prepared to engage in some modest physical exertion. Bring suitable footwear, and a harness if you have one. There is no charge for the club use of the wall, so what are we waiting for? Check out the vertical world! For further directions phone Bruce.

JULY 28-30 Waterfall, Broken Ridge F Nigel Barrett 326-887
Depart Friday morning?? The plan is to head into Waterfall Hut on the Friday morning via Purity-Iron Peg Stream. The next morning climb to Rangī Saddle and further on to Rangiateatua. After traversing Broken Ridge, we can either head off Paemutu to Tussock Creek to Waterfall Hut, or carry on to Ohuinga - Hawkes Bay Range to Pourangaki Hut depending on the weather and keenness of the group. Sunday is back out to Purity. Two relatively easy days and one fit day in the middle. Snow is expected so bring crampons and ice axe and plenty of enthusiasm.

JULY 29 TBA Brenton Sheppard 06-376-8474
Depart 8 am from PN. This is an attractive easily accessible part of the Tararuas. There are various options of routes to the falls dependent on the river and, weather conditions. Route - half on track and half in river bed.

AUGUST

AUGUST 1 Tuesday Snowcraft 2 evening at Terry's place (See details below.)

AUGUST 3 Thursday day trippers Monica Cantwell 326-9691

AUGUST 5-6 Snowcraft 2. Egmont p: SC1 Bruce Van Brunt 328-4761
See details below.

AUGUST 5-6 Egmont - Dawson Falls E Pauline Coy 354-9125
Depart either Friday night or Saturday morning. Want to go to Egmont, but not on snowcraft? Then join up with Pauline and have the opportunity to do day walks in the Dawson Falls area. Pauline is open to suggestions and may visit the snowcraft clan during the weekend. Transport will be in conjunction with the snowcraft team.

AUGUST 5 Toka M Alistair Millward 356-6912
Depart 6:45 am. Keen on kicking some Ruahine snow about? We'll tramp up to Toka via the Deerford Track and then return via Shorts Track and for those that are keen Tunupo can be tackled. A pleasant circuit with good views. An ice axe may be needed.

AUGUST 10 Thursday day trippers Judy Stockdale 355-5277

AUGUST 10 Club night Climbing, Peru Peter Barnes
Come along and hear Peter Barnes from Wellington give an illustrated talk on climbing in the Cordillera Blanca region of Peru; an easily accessible and spectacular part of the Andes. Peter and 6 others recently climbed a number of peaks including 6 over 6,000 m.

AUGUST 12-13 Howletts-Longview M/F Phillip Brown 355-1389
Depart 7 am. Into Howletts, a cosy and well situated hut via Daphne Spur. Good views of the high tops of the Ruahines and the lights of Hastings at night below. Sunday will be south towards Longview and back via Moorcock's Base.

| | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--------|----------------|-------------|
| AUGUST 13 | Maharahara Crossing | E | Warren Wheeler | 356-1998 |
| Depart 8 am. This is pleasant crossing of the Southern Ruahines, giving great views to the north and south, east and west. Depending on the numbers, we will start from both ends and exchange car keys enroute. | | | | |
| AUGUST 17 | Thursday day trippers | | Judy Callesen | 357-0192 |
| AUGUST 19-20 | Snowcraft 3. Whangaehu | p: SC2 | Peter Wiles | 358-6894 |
| See details below. | | | | |
| AUGUST 20 | Kiriwhakapapa | E | Jenny McCathy | 06-376-8838 |
| Depart (PN.) at 8:15 am (meeting Jenny at Eketahuna). This is a pleasant walk, starting up through magnificent redwoods, then into native forest to sunny lunch spots on the eastern side of the Tararua Ranges. | | | | |
| AUGUST 24 | Thursday day trippers | | Tony Cameron | 356-5461 |
| AUGUST 26-28 | South Mitre-Tarn Ridge | F | Derek Sharp | 326-8178 |
| AUGUST 27 | Sunrise Hut | E | Warren Wheeler | 356-1998 |
| AUGUST 31 | Thursday day trippers | | Russ Johnson | 358-7777 |
| AUGUST 31 | Club night | TBA | | |

EDITORIAL

We have two this month:

THE FITNESS ESSENTIAL TRAMP

By Nigel Barrett

There are some among us who desire, crave, yearn and even fantasise about monstrous 'Hard Out' missions commonly known as FE tramps. You can recognise us as those who constantly study maps for the longest way to go somewhere, we are always trying to out do each other with tales of our Epic journeys of the past, but our most distinguishing attribute is the impressive size of our Ego's. (The only thing bigger than our Ego is the size of the tramps we do!)

What I hope to do in this editorial is to encourage people to try a FE Tramp and to tell the story about how I caught the 'FE Bug'. It happened to me on my first ever tramp, I was 16 years old and had been cycling for about 6 weeks in preparation when the night before finally arrived. I went to bed early but couldn't sleep due to the anticipation of the day to follow. The plan was to complete the Putara - Dundas - Arete - Cattle Ridge - Roaring Stag - Putara loop in one day. Talk about the enthusiasm of youth! However armed with a feed of Peanut Butter Sandwiches, wearing a huge Swandri and my Father's size 12 steel capped safety boots with 7 pairs of school socks on, I was rearing to go. Without going into too much detail, by the time we reached Dundas Hut we were about 2 hours behind schedule and feeling quite tired. Naturally we altered our plans, we would drop down to the Ruamahanga River and climb Cattle Ridge to the Hut and hopefully continue out that day. After losing the track at the river which took an hour to find we climbed to Cattle Ridge. By the time I had got to the top and stumbled along to the hut there was no way in the world I was going to move for at least 8 hours, so we spent the night there (an 11 hour day). The next day wasn't too bad (7 hours total), except to say that whenever you need a phone there is NEVER anyone home at the nearest Farmhouse! For the week following my muscles and feet wouldn't let me forget what I had put them through that weekend but I loved every moment of that tramp, I was hooked.

Some people I know are of the Opinion that to find out if a person really likes tramping give them a so called 'Baptism Of Fire' and if you ever see them in the club again then you know they're Hooked. This philosophy worked on me and a few others I know who are regular FE Trampers. Nowadays I find great delight in taking new trampers on their first F and FE tramps.

I have spent some time thinking just why do I like FE Tramping, and I have come up with two main reasons. Firstly, the number of places where one can go in a weekend opens up dramatically allowing for an extremely wide variety of trips to be undertaken. Have you ever been across Bannister, Tarn, Dundas Ridges in the Tararuas? What about Hawkes Bay Range, Sawtooth Ridge, the Maropea River (Ruahines)? All these places are not too difficult to get to, if you are prepared to have a go. The second reason is related to the first: you see so much more when FE tramping. Some may say that you're going too fast to see anything, but I would beg to differ. How many of you have seen your own Brocken-spectre? Have you ever seen a big Stag on the Tops, a Blue Duck? Have you ever walked in acres of Edelweiss, seen hundreds of mountain buttercup? These things are enjoyed by so few people, I'm glad to be among the few. I hope some of you will consider coming on a Fit or FE trip with me in the future it will be an experience you'll never forget, you may even develop an Ego!

TRAMPING IN NEW ZEALAND AND IN SWEDEN

By Kristina Mattsson

If I should conclude my experience of six months of weekend tramping in New Zealand, mainly on the North Island/ I would say; "it is adventurous and very scenic".

New Zealand mountains are steep. Very steep. By far the steepest was the one (Gable End) which I climbed only a few days after my arrival in the country. As I have become acquainted with the hills they seem to have become slightly less steep, but only slightly.

The steepness has the advantage of finishing up at a place with a good view, like Longview. I go back with many good views printed in my mind. On a few occasion the steepness has finished up in a fog, like in an Alfred Hitchcock movie.

The New Zealand trumper is probably a little more adventurous than his/her Swedish equivalent. "Let's hit the bush, follow a river or a stream and see how it goes, haven't been here before but we should end up somewhere". It makes you feel yours could be the first pair of feet that ever tramped there. And I agree, it is good fun and when I come home I'll bring my friends out into the forest and see where we end up. I hope they'll enjoy it.

Walking in rivers and streams is another Kiwi speciality which I think stems from the steepness of the country. There is simply not room to walk beside it. Since Sweden is a little less steep there is always room to walk along a river, so you only have to cross it once. In NZ I have got a lot of practice crossing rivers. I can even do it without seeing where I put my feet; thanks to some practising in the dark!

To me the New Zealand trumper resembles a Norwegian one. Both go around with a small pack and keen feet (maybe because New Zealand is more like Norway than Sweden). Swedes tend to hike with larger packs. So what do we bring? Well, a flowerbook (we have to live up to our Linnaean heritage), whose size can vary between 200g and 1.5 kilos (depending on the keenness of the botanist), is a necessity seldom left at home! A birdbook goes down into the pack together with a pair of binoculars. And if you get a little tired all you have to do is look either up or down and you'll find a very good reason for stopping a little while. We'll also bring a thermos with hot coffee and another with hot blueberry or rosehip soup. A day out hiking will (apart from flower and bird stops) have morning and afternoon coffee breaks as well as lunch. In between we do manage to walk a little. A day's hiking will normally cover between 15 and 25 kilometres (we measure distances in kilometres, not hours).

Don't get the impression that Sweden is not a beautiful country. It is lovely, with good opportunities for hiking, crosscountry skiing and canoeing. There is over 5000 kilometres of major tracks along which you can camp or stay in wind-shelters and swim in some of the thousands of lakes we have. Further up north there is alpine country reaching far above the Arctic Circle and here the largest wilderness of Europe is found. There are huts to stay in but many bring their own tents. Here you hike mainly between early July and early September and the cross-country skiing season (you go from hut to hut with your pack for a week or two) is from mid February to the first week of May.

This was a little PR for my part of the world. If anyone would like to visit it, write to me! I can help you with information about hiking and skiing in Sweden and Norway and you are welcome to come and stay at my place in Malmo while on your way to somewhere. Finally, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the tramping club for the wonderful friendliness and helpfulness I have met. The tramping I have done has been a great part of the enjoyment of my stay. I have put my address down below, don't hesitate to write if there is anything I can help you with.

Kristina Mattsson, Ryttagatan 5B, 5-21243 Malmo, Sweden Phone: 040-42 19 90

SNOW CRAFT COURSE DETAILS (Keep all this for reference if you are going on the Snowcraft Course):

The Club's Snowcraft Course consists of three weekends (Snowcraft 1, Snowcraft 2 & Snowcraft 3) each at a different progressive level and two Tuesday evening sessions (at Terry's place, 11 Pahiatua St, 7:45pm) prior to Snowcraft 1 and 2. A copy of the MSC Mountaincraft Manual will be of use.

NOTE: (a) Names of prospective pupils must be given to the leader of the particular weekend a full week in advance.
(b) Due to the necessity to have workable instructor to pupil ratios and hut accommodation requirements, pupil numbers may be restricted. Preference will be given to club members.

Snowcraft 1 Leader: Nigel Barrett 326-8847

Closing date for application: Friday 14 July

Evening session: Tuesday 18 July

Weekend: 22-23 July

Content.: Introduction to the ice axe, kicking steps/cutting steps, ascending/descending easy to moderate slopes, self arresting, snow and alpine conditions. Departing PN at 7am Saturday, up to the Tukino Skifield road and the Round the

Mountain track to Rangipo Hut. (If Desert Road is closed then Blythe Hut near the Turoa Skifield). Instruction and practice will occur en-route and adjacent to the hut. Sunday will continue with further topics and practice and we will check out some of the slopes further up. You will need; normal overnight winter tramping gear and food, including dry clothing for the hut and suitable leather boots, plus ice axe (can be hired on the Tuesday night), and helmet. Cost: two DOC hut tickets/Hut pass, gear hire cost, and approx \$25 for transport.

Snowcraft 2 Leader: Bruce Van Brunt 328-4761

Closing date for application: Friday 28 July

Evening session: Tuesday 1 August

Weekend: 4/5-6 August

Content: Revision of self arrest techniques, introduction to (10 point) crampons, the use of crampons on slopes of moderate steepness, self arresting with crampons, introduction to rope work, rope care, knots, (improvised) harnesses, simple belaying on snow, climbing on steeper slopes, alpine hazards and intro to glacier travel. For the Tuesday night session you need to bring your boots and crampons (hire and pick up from Club gear custodian Mick Leyland beforehand), harness/webbing, karabiner.

We will depart either 6pm Friday night or early Saturday morning, heading to the Dawson Falls road end on Mt Egmont/Taranaki, and then heading into Kapuni Lodge (EAC). Instruction will take place en-route, adjacent to the hut and further up the mountain.

You will need: same as for Snowcraft 1 (leather boots must be suitable for fitting crampons to) plus a pair of (10 point) crampons (can be hired from the club), harness or 4.5m of 25mm webbing for an improvised harness, one screw-gate karabiner.

Cost: Money for hut fees (not DOC hutpass/ticket) and approx \$30 for transport.

Snowcraft 3 Leader: Peter Wiles 358-6894

Closing date for application: Friday 11 August

Weekend: 18/19-20 August

Content: Further crampon techniques including the use of 12 (front)-point crampons, more belay methods and backing up belays, some activity on ice, planning and practising pitches.

We will depart 6pm Friday night heading up the Tukino Mountain road, then tramping into Whangaehu (NZAC) Hut (alternative is Rangipo Hut). Instruction will be centred on the upper eastern slopes of Ruapehu.

You will need: same as for Snowcraft 2 (front point crampons if you want), plus some snaplink karabiners, slings, snowstake, hammer.

Costs: Hut fees \$24 (not DOC hut. pass/ticket) , and approx \$25 transport.

NOTICES

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome two new members to the club:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Jody L'Arrivee | Peter Burgess |
| 37 St Alban's Avenue | F4, 41 Lancaster street |
| Palmerston North | Palmerston North |
| Phone:358-5319 | 354-3533 |

Changes of addresses and phone numbers etc.

Mary Crow is now based in Taranaki: 22 Disraeli Street, Hawera (06-278-8305). Mary welcomes members to call in and hopes to get out on trips with us in the region.

Contrary to what the trip card states, Warren Wheeler's phone number should be 356-1998.

Monica Cantwell is now at Innerwell Lane, RD 10, Ph. 326-9691.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Tony and Yvonne who did not go tramping over Queens birthday weekend, instead they had their wedding.

THURSDAY TRIP SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---------|--------------|----------|
| JULY 13 | John Rockell | 358-3513 |
| JULY 20 | Phil Pearce | 354-6687 |
| JULY 27 | Dug Wakeling | 323-4127 |

AUGUST 3 Monica Cantwell 326-9691
AUGUST 10 Judy Stockdale 355-5277
Overdue contacts: Sue and Lawson Pither (357-3033) and Trish Eder (357-0122).

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 3rd August

If you are unable to make it or expect to be late, please ensure that your apology is forwarded to the secretary in advance. Next meeting at Peter's place 12 Jensen Street, PN. All members welcome.

MSC MOUNTAINCRAFT MANUALS

These have arrived for those of you who ordered them. They will be available from Terry at club night, Thursday 13th. Bring you \$10.75 along please.

MAPS

If you have ordered any maps -good news; they have arrived and are available from Nigel.

CLUB NIGHTS

At the AGM it was resolved that club nights will be standardised on the second and last Thursdays of the month. This will come into effect from July because the club nights for the first half of the year have been specified in the current trip card.

TRIP REPORTS

Don't forget (leaders) please get your trip reports in or use your short lived powers to delegate to an unsuspecting team member. How about a letter to the editor, perhaps, or some good gossip, or a poem or what ever. Electronic copy is the most convenient. This newsletter is prepared using Wordperfect. So I can retrieve any material in Wordperfect format (version 5, 5.1, 5.2 or 6, in either DOS or Windows). If you use Microsoft Word or a MAC, then I need an ASCII (or DOS text file) version. With a MAC, you will need a DOS formatted disc. I can only handle 3½ inch discs.

If you have DOS or Windows, and are not sure that you have saved it in ASCII format, then retrieve it into Notepad (Windows) or Edit (DOS) to check the copy. If it's OK, it's OK, if it's not, it's not!

TRIP DECISIONS?

If you decide you want to go on a trip, please ensure that you have contacted the leader by the Wednesday before, so that logistical decisions can be made. Recently, there have been some instances of people expressing an interest in a trip on the evening before -the leaders in some cases, having made other plans at that late stage.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It is with great pleasure that I write to you this month. It is fifteen years since I last wrote to your prestigious publication. Back then, in 1980, it was total dismay that caused me to pick up my pen. That July, the long tradition of midwinter swims by PNTMC members came to an end. Only one member, a certain Frenchman, took the plunge into the cold waters for midwinter (at Rangī in those days). And then it was possibly by accident! Prior to 1980 there would have been a half dozen or more club members mid-winter dipping. Since 1980 there has been no reports of PNTMC members braving the waters. No wonder Massey University Alpine Club no longer refers to us as "The Palmerston North Tongue and Meats". Our Hardiness was lost!

So it was with total amazement, nearly causing me to falloff my seat at this year's Photo Competition, to see photographic evidence of club members scantily clad emerging from the Kawhatau River at this year's mid-winter event. On further investigation I discovered that Warren, Maree, Nigel, Kristina, Terry and possibly more enjoyed the icy swim!

So there is still some hardiness left in the club. Perhaps soon we will see a trip to the Camel backs or barefoot cramponing.

Yours etc. A. Bill

RESULTS OF PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

There was possibly an unprecedented turn out of both people and photos for this year's event. The results detailed below are as best as I know them.

Prints

Natural History

- | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Erosion | Llew Prichard |
| 2 | Spaniard | Alistair Millward |
| 3 | South Island | Mick Leyland |

Alpine

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Scenic | 1 | Pourangaki | Tony Gates |
| | 2 | Above Sunrise Hut | Peter Burgess |
| Topical | 1 | Milford Sound | Pauline Coy |
| | 2 | Howletts Hut | Pauline Coy |
| Overseas | 1 | Rockclimber | Alistair Millward |
| | 2 | Would-be driver | Llew Prichard |
| | 3 | Swing bridge | Peter Burgess |
| Alpine | | Kristina Mattsson | |
| Scenic | | Kristina Mattsson | |
| Topical (not sure whether there were any entries here?) | | | |

Slides

Alpine

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|---------------|
| Scenic | 1 | Ramsey Neve | Derek Sharp |
| | 2 | Howletts/Tiraha | Nigel Barrett |
| | 3 | Sawtooth Ridge | Tony Gates' |
| Natural History | 1 | Otaki River | Tony Gates |
| | 2 | Lewis Pass | Tony Gates |
| | 3 | Whataroa | Tony Gates |
| Topical | 1 | Sand | Tony Gates |
| | 2 | Spider web | Peter Wiles |
| | 3 | Maori onions | Terry Crippen |
| Overseas | 1 | Park Morpeth cooks | Terry Crippen |
| | 2 | Nigel | Tony Gates |
| | 3 | Snow cave digging | Tony Gates |
| Scenic | 1 | Reflection | Terry Crippen |
| | 2 | Mt Geryon | John Phillips |
| | 3 | Mt Geryon | John Phillips |
| Topical | 1 | Javanese walking | Terry Crippen |

TRIP REPORTS

IRONGATES Sunday Feb ??

Those present: Kristina Mattsson, Jenny McCarthy, Steve Glasgow, Rebecca, Judy Calleson, Terry Crippen, Colleen Jessen, Sue Johnson, Martin Lawrence, Harold, Liz & Nicola Flint, Christine Scott, Stuart Hubbard (leader).

As we left the Heritage Lodge road end, about 9.30 am, the weather looked rather bleak - cold and spitting slightly. However once down in the valley the weather was more clement. We followed the sidle track to Irongates Hut, in the process Jenny got stung by bees. We lunched at the hut before making our way back via the Oroua River. This was flowing fairly swiftly thanks to recent rain and on several crossings we decided to link arms. Despite inclement temperatures, Terry and Nicola decided to try some pack floating. They were the only ones who chose to get wet on purpose.

Back at carpark round 5.30, a pleasant outing.

TAKAPARI ROAD Sunday May 7th

Those present: Terry Crippen, Stuart Hubbard

This was billed as a combined tramping/ mountain bike trip, but the only takers were Terry and Stuart. Takapari Rd is up the Pohangina Valley, and much of it is a fairly rough 4-wheel drive track. Cool and rather misty, but the first steep rise soon raised our temperatures. Bottom gear material for much of the way. Quite strong wind on the ridge, and low visibility, so we were glad of the shelter of A-frame Hut for lunch (I think it took an hour and a half or so).

We didn't meet Tui's group from Stanfield Hut but they saw our names in the hut book. The descent was pretty gnarly (technical mountain biking term here) but Stuart only grazed his elbow. A good bit of downhill. I'd like to try it again sometime.

THE HIGH TOPS OF THE HIKURANGI RANGE

by Nigel Barrett.

Since the Mid-Winter celebrations were going to happen at the Kawhatau Base, it provided an excellent opportunity to cross the Hikurangi Range in a day. Because this trip was to be the fitter option of tramps going on the Saturday, there was only one other person keen to come with me, all the others preferred the 'easier' option offered by Mick. Adam and I left Purity carpark at 9.00am and headed for Purity Hut and beyond at a good pace, the weather looked like it was going to clear so we were keen to get the good views. We reached Purity after 1.5 hours where we stopped to record intentions. I usually like to read through the intentions book at a hut and I was pleased to see a large number of entries from PNTMC members. We headed up at a good pace but took time to enjoy the views of Ruapehu and Egmont, the clouds over the Hikurangi Range had not lifted and it appeared they would not. By Wooden Peg my stomach was demanding, quite vocally, to be fed so I obliged. It was 11.30am so we decided to make this lunch, so out came the Chicken, French stick, Scorched Almonds and Fejoias. Adam almost begged me to give him some Fejoias and I couldn't bear to see a grown man cry so we devoured them in a symphony of Slurps and mmmmmms. With fuel in our bellies we raced off toward Mangaweka Trig which we reached by 12.20pm, it's not an impressive Peak nor did we have a view at the top but it is a fantastic area. I got the map out here and familiarised myself with the terrain ahead, the compass was not entirely necessary but it pays to use it just to confirm things in your mind. From here it was a series of little ups and downs with plenty of glissades and one or two falls. Mt Hikurangi itself is quite a sharp, pyramidal peak with loose rock on top and slips on two of its sides, we sat here for a while taking the time to roll some rocks over the edge. On the descent of Hikurangi, the cloud lifted enough for us to get a good view of the route to take to the McKinnon Hut turn off and the beginning of the poled route to Kawhatau. Once at the McKinnon turnoff we fed ourselves and then raced off with thoughts of a warm hut and a good brew waiting. I reached the Cableway at 3.30pm and made it across by myself with the help of the 'Handle Thing' that goes over the main cable. Adam was about 20 mins behind me but made quite a job of crossing the Cableway, not knowing how the 'Handle Thing' worked. He pulled himself across by his hands it took him about 40mins to get across! At the Base we had expected to see all the others there indulging in some carbonated beverages, but from what Trevor and Llew told us the others got a little more than they bargained for when they decided to go for a Medium trip with Mick. Adam and I had an enjoyable 6.5 hours, got some good views and put anew red line on our maps.

ALPINE INSTRUCTORS COURSE: 3-5 June 1995 by Terry Crippen

Over Queens Birthday weekend I attended the Federated Mountain Clubs - Tasman Forestry Alpine Instructors Course based at the Tararua Tramping Club's hut on the Whakapapa side of Ruapehu. The walk in on the Friday night was in excellent conditions with clear still weather after heavy snowfalls that day. That was the last of the fine weather until the Monday, so much of the instruction/teaching/assessment was done inside with the odd excursion outside with real live blizzard conditions to practice skills, including emergency shelter building. There were 25 of us current and potential club instructors on the course from clubs throughout the North Island. To teach us sound methods of instructing and to pass on the latest techniques there were five professional mountaineering instructors. We covered a wide range of skills from self-arresting WITHOUT an ice axe to glacier travel (hut bound). A very profitable and enjoyable time was spent. Thanks to FMC and Tasman Forestry, and to Hugh Barr (chief organiser).

HOWLETTS HUT, RUAHINE RANGE (or learning another couple of place names): 10-11 June by Terry Crippen

This was down as a Howletts-Sawtooth but was changed hopefully to a Taumatataua-Howletts-Taumataomekura due to the possible snow conditions and the fact that Ron and I had been into Howletts about a month before and had got interested in the idea of investigating the double-stream basin on the south face of Tiraha - Taumataomekura, which looks impressive from Howletts Hut. Four of us headed in via Moorcocks Base and the bush ridges before dropping down to the Tukituki River. It was cold and slightly up but didn't require a bush bash. After calling at Daphne Hut we headed up the track that climbs the main spur to the southwest leading up to the spot height 1271 m. Rodney was out in front checking out the deer population and found a sunny lunch spot .

After lunch it was a short drop to the saddle before the last climb up to Taumatataua. Here we had a show of multiple broken spectres; each of us with our shadow in the centre of our own series of circular rainbows on the mist in the valley below. The high points; Taumataomekura, Tiraha, Te Hekenga and beyond looked impressive with their snow cover. From Taumatataua it was a gentle stroll along to Howletts Hut. This is a comfortable hut maintained by the Heretauga Tramping Club. The original shelter was built on this site in the 1880's presumably as a shepherds shelter. The night was clear with the snow covered peaks quite bright in the moonlight and the lights of Hastings and Napier spread out to the north east below.

However 6 am next morning there was a thick heavy cloud base about 200m above us. A cup of tea and breakfast later, the cloud had engulfed everything and the rain turned to hail then to snow. So any thoughts of investigating Taumataomekura-Tiraha were canned. So it was a rapid descent down Daphne spur into the Tukituki,

before it came up, and out to Moorcocks Base via the bush ridge in cool rain and mist. To conclude, an enjoyable trip it was into Dannevirke for a good lunchtime nosh-up.

The party was Ron DeRose, Toby Bunn, Rodney Williams, Terry Crippen

A CHEESY TALE by Richard Lockatt

Let us go back in time, way back to 11 December 1994 in fact. Daphne Hut, departure time 7:30 am. Purpose of trip: to deliver provisions to the group doing the Te Hekenga crossing lead by Llew Prichard. The team consisted of Stuart Hubbard, Chris Morey, Grep Phillips, Sue Scott and ? who came along to ensure that our task was carried out to the instructions given.

On arrival at Moorcock Base, we all set off along the farm track leading from the stock yards and with the steep climb, we quickly warmed up. At this point, Sue decided that a finer body of trampers she had not met, and that we could do the job, so she called it a day to wait at the van for husband Nigel and son doing the crossing.

Little did Sue know that I had lead the team up the wrong track. After gaining considerable height, the track ended at the top of a ridge looking down at the Moorcock Stream. So over the side, we go down, down across the stream and straight up the other side to the saddle where the track to Daphne Hut starts. By this time the advance party of the crossing group were beginning to emerge from the bush, but no sign of the bearers of the provisions we were carrying i.e. Nigel Scott and son – it was their Sunday lunch.

We eventually ran into them just before we dropped down into the Tukituki River (north branch) and having carried their lunch so far we decided that we'd better watch to make sure they ate it. Well what a lunch; cheese sandwiches, what a look of delight on their faces and with that we left them to it and continued on to Daphne Hut.

It being December, our lunch had a Christmas feel too, with mincemeat pies and Christmas cake etc. and having eaten far too much we set off back to Moorcock Base. Back at the car and the team debrief, the only comment: "Well they could have been blue vein".

Bruce van Brunt has given me a first instalment of an account of his Aspiring ascent in April. It is at least 15 pages and that covers only the drama of getting to the summit. Believe me, it is worth reading. I intend to serialise it and slot in instalments as space permits. (ed.)

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