

PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

July 1997 Edition

Club Patron	: Lawson Pither	357-3033
President	: Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Vice President	: Terry Crippen	356-3588
Secretary	: Sarah Todd	357-0612
Treasurer	: Peter Wiles	358-6894
Membership Enquires	: Sarah Todd	357-0612 and Warren Wheeler 356-1998
Trips co-ordinators	: Terry Crippen (356-3588) and Liz Flint (356-7654)	
Gear Custodian	: Mick Leyland	358-3183
Newsletter Editor	: John Philips	358-1874

ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Mick Leyland : Ph. 358-3183
Terry Crippen : Ph. 356-3588
Sue & Lawson Pither : Ph. 357-3033

Trips

The Club runs trips each weekend, either overnight and/or day. See scheduled events list below. There are also mid-week tramps. If you are interested in going on a trip, please advise the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips usually leave from the Foodtown car park in Fergusson Street. For general information on the scheduled or alternative tramps please contact one of the trip co-ordinators: Terry Crippen (356-3588) and Liz Flint (356-7654).

Grade of trip: This is based on what tramping time a reasonably proficient tramper would be expected to cover in. 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. Beginners should start with Easy graded tramps.

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

Club meetings are held for all club members and visitors on the second and last Thursday of each month. The venue is the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North, at 7:30 pm during winter and 7:45 pm during summer unless otherwise notified in the newsletter. Please sign your name in the visitors book. There is a door fee of 50c which includes supper.

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

**Deadline for notices and trip reports for inclusion in newsletter:
LAST THURSDAY of each month.**

If there is sufficient interest, we will have another Tuesday evening, this time at the City Rock Climbing Gym at 38a Grey St at 7pm to practise more complex rope and belay systems, prior to this weekend.

AUG 23-24 Ohutu Ridge M Mick Leyland 358-3183
Depart: 6 am. Into the northwest Ruahines via Mokai Station, to check out a new track and biv. Interesting greywacke and limestone country, good forest, and Mick to show you the way.

AUG 24 Blue Range E/Family Liz Flint 356-7654
Depart: Sunday morning , and head off into the eastern Tararuas with Liz. Good bush and the Hut for a lunch stop. Families welcome.

AUG 28 Midweek tramping Doug Wakelin 323-4127

AUG 28 Club night Interclub Quiz
Each year, PNTMC, MTSC, MUAC, and the staff from Mountain Equipment and Highlife get together in a battle of wits and skills for the prestigious "Trevor Bissell Billy". This year, PNTMC will be organising it, with a little assistance from MTSC and others, so the quiz will be held at the Society of Friends rooms in College Street. There will be questions and activities that teams from each club will have to address. There will be a lot of laughs. The PNTMC team organisers will be looking for "volunteers", so please don't be shy, and put your name forward to a committee member.

NOTICES

TRIP REPORTS AND OTHER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

To all of you who would like to contribute articles to this newsletter, small articles are okay hand-written (deliver to John Phillips, 87 Victoria Avenue), but it makes my job a bit easier if larger articles are on disc. Even better, if you have the facilities at home or at work, why not "e-mail" it to me at my work e-mail address which is PHILLIPS@MWRC.GOV.NZ.

PLEASE NOTE that I am now editing exclusively on Microsoft Word, and am no longer using Microsoft Works software. If you use any other software, give me a ring on 357-9009 (work) or 358-1874 (home) and I may be able to indicate whether it is compatible or not. If in doubt, a pretty safe bet is to send any files as an ".RTF" (Rich Text Format) file, which can be easily converted from one software format to another.

Please note the deadline for each month's issue on the front page of the newsletter.

*****HISTORIC MOMENT*****

You are looking at the last club newsletter printed on the trusty old Gestetner - a new high-tech format will be produced as of August. Many thanks to Peter for his efforts over the years. (Perhaps Peter would care to give us an estimate as to how many times that handle has cranked over?)

ALPINE 1998 CALENDARS

These popular items can be ordered at the discount price, through the club, of \$13.50. See Laurence Gatehouse at club nights.

NEW MEMBERS

This month please welcome three new members to the club:
Trudi Aspden, 1/268 Park Road, P.N., 354-9996.
Richard Lovell, 270 Featherston Street, P.N., 358-4423.
Harley Betts, 34 Newbury Line, RD 8, P.N., 354-1582.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Nigel Scott has now moved from Waikato down to Taranaki:
639 Eltham Road, RD21, Stratford. Phone (06) 764-8536

With his usual generosity Nigel informs us that any members wishing to tramp or climb Taranaki are welcome to stay overnight Friday etc on their farm so you can get an early start on the following morning. If you let him know early he might join you!

MAP ORDERS

Now's the time to order those Topo maps for winter tramping, or for planning those summer tramps. Ordering through the club offers big discounts. We can get 30% off the shop price by placing a club order through FMC. All orders to Derek Sharp on 326-8178.

1997 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

This was a crowded and exciting meeting, when our traditional judge, John Cleland, presided over a fine selection of colour slides and prints. He provided an enthralling and educational commentary and critique on a great variety of photos. We sifted through each slide in each section, then John short listed the three best for members to vote for first, second, and third. John then provided a similar critique on an excellent selection of prints (there were a couple of enlargements, but most were just normal postcard sized prints). Virtually all sections had a full complement of entries, and as you can see, a wide range of winners.

John enjoys judging the PNTMC annual photo competition because of the general high quality (which I'm sure has improved over the past few years) and because of the fascinating subject material.

PHOTO COMPETITION

NZ Alpine

1st	Terry Crippen	Mt Hopeless
2nd	Derek Sharp	Age Glacier and avalanche
3rd	Dave Henwood	Mt Pask

NZ Scenic

1st	Tony Gates	Makeratu River
2nd	Andy Backhouse	Nelson Lakes scene
3rd	Andy Backhouse	Fox Glacier

Natural History

1st	Derek Sharp	Mt Cook Lily
2nd	Tony Gates	Leatherwood
3rd	Tony Gates	Orchid, Pohangina

Topical

1st	Warren Souflat	Delta Corner
2nd	Terry Crippen	Dun Creek Hut
3rd	Tony Gates	Wayne Beggs at Waipawa Saddle

Overseas Alpine

1st	Dave Henwood	Quebrada Cayesh, Peru
2nd	Andy Backhouse	Alpamayo Chico, Bolivia
3rd	Andy Backhouse	Bivvy on Alpamayo Glacier, Bolivia

Overseas Topical

1st	Andy Backhouse	El dente del diablo
2nd	Andy Backhouse	Llama catching
3rd	Andy Backhouse	Cholitas

PRINTS

NZ Alpine

1st	Warren Souflat
2nd	Dave Larsen
3rd	Warren Wheeler

NZ Scenic

1st	Llew Pritchard	Rotoiti
2nd	Tony Gates	Copland Valley
3rd	Llew Pritchard	Top Maropea

Natural History

1st Terry Crippen
2nd David Grant
3rd Tony Gates Pohangina River

Topical

1st Warren Wheeler
2nd Wayne Bennett
3rd Wayne Bennett

Overseas Alpine

1st Neil Campbell
2nd Neil Campbell
3rd Neil Campbell

Overseas Topical

1st Warren Souflat

FMC MATTERS Terry

Last month I attended the FMC (Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ) AGM in Wellington as the PNTMC's delegate. As well as usual AGM type stuff there were various workshops and Hugh Logan as the guest speaker. For those of you who are not familiar with what the FMC is or does: Its an incorporated society (as is PNTMC) made up of about 80 affiliated tramping, mountaineering, skiing, hunting, etc clubs. Each club has one or more voting rights (depending on club membership - We have 1 vote). FMC has an elected Executive which is involved with a wide range of issues and roles from which we as PNTMC members benefit. Such activities include advocacy roles on National and Forest Parks and conservation issues, Club member services such as the FMC card with its discounts (including Hut pass reduced rates), map discount sales; Access and Walkway issues, Resource Management Act and other Legislation, Treaty issues: NZ Land SAR and NZMSC involvement, and running instruction courses, etc. A heck of a lot of paperwork and hard work gets done by the Executive frequently putting the pressure on and/or helping Government Ministers and officials. A small part of your PNTMC subs goes to FMC for this work. It's to our advantage to support FMC.

If your feeling inclined to help FMC more in its continuing role (and frequent battles), there are a number of ways:

1. Write submissions supporting FMC views on issues that it is working on: as are mentioned in the FMC Bulletin and FMC newsletter from time to time. (Your club committee does this also).
2. You can become an Individual Supporter of FMC for \$30 per year.
3. You can give donations to the FMC Mountain and Forest Trust., a charitable trust.

These can be targeted for special purposes. These are Tax deductible.

(See your FMC bulletin for address etc)

WEATHER INFORMATION

by Terry

Now that winter is here it is even more important to get up-to-date weather information and forecasts before heading of for a tramp or climb. Lots of sources are out there. The TV weather programme and the newspapers are good, but there are more that may suite you better. On the National Radio: Monday to Saturday they begin from 5:30 am on. There is the Long range (5 day) forecast Monday to Friday just after the 12:30 news at lunch time; and the Mountains forecast just after the 1pm news.

Phone numbers for the Mountain areas forecast is 0900 999 66, and for the Ski field areas its 0900 999 06. Road information is 0900 33 222.

If you are into the internet use <http://www.met.co.nz> There is a number of situation and forecasts given including short and full long range (5 day) forecasts, and forecasts based on regions.

What I find quite useful, especially for those trips to places further afield, is the Met Fax set up. Full info on this is at <http://www.met.co.nz/home/products/info/metfax> You phone up, giving the district that you want and get situation and forecast maps and info for the next three days sent to you fax number.

TRIP REPORTS

QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 1997, TONGARIRO

With the weather forecast bringing forth such comments as "you're crazy" our group of 8 (including Trudy, who had arrived from England only 3 days earlier) headed for Tongariro, ever darkening skies, and Mills and Boon Sagas.

Collecting hut passes and warnings at the Chateau, we donned wet weather gear and headed out for Waihohonu hut with the wind and rain thankfully coming from the rear. After a stop to explore the old hut, we arrived at Waihohonu hut to find it full of ATC members. After grabbing bunk space, some of us headed out into the showers to see the fresh water spring, while others stayed back to organise the huge piles of fresh vege etc for tea.

Sunday morning dawned grey, but clear, with Ruapehu standing proud beside us. We set out for Oterere Hut, passing and alternately being passed by ATC. Again, it was a very pleasant walk, and after lunching at the hut, we headed out for some exploring and great bouldering in the beautiful lunar like landscape. The evening was spent sharing jokes and a Mills and Boon novel (supplied from Warren's personal library). This latter proved very entertaining when interspersed with a Readers Digest story about a prize breeding bull! Suzie (from Korea) also shared her amazement with us at seeing men in the kitchen (very unusual in Korea, & Mills and Boon!). Awakening at midnight to the "call of nature", I headed outside to find a sparkling white landscape with big soft snowflakes drifting down. Unable to contain my excitement, I shared this news with the person on the bunk next to me, and by 12.10 am the whole hut had paid a visit to this beautiful magical land.

Monday morning was greeted with much discussion as we had weather forecasts of 130 km/h winds with snow. ATC eventually opted to return via the low route, while we decided to go for it up & over the south crater. It was an exhilarating experience, especially on the ridge where Terry and Warren took turns at anchoring those without ice axes. Once we dropped into the South Crater though the wind and rain was again coming from behind and we made good progress down to Mangetepopo valley, where it was extremely wet, windy, and cold. After a couple of hours thawing out at the hut, we set out into the horrendous weather once again to catch the bus back to our cars. While awaiting its arrival, aerobics, dancing, & cross country skiing simulations were employed to keep us warm. Our own sense of ruggedness was severely diminished however when up the road & into the wind came a fully laden cycle tourist- now that was impressive, and definitely crazy!

We were; Terry, Peter D, Suzie, Trudy, Warren W, Maree, Dave, Mick.

LEON KINVIG (Notes from a whingeing Pom) June 7-8 by Trudi Aspden

There were 3 of us on this trip: Alan Bee (trip leader), Warren Wheeler, and I, only on my second PNTMC tramp - guess who got to do the trip report?!

We set off on a cold clear Saturday morning from the end of Ngamoko Rd following a path through a cocky's field (new word). A DoC sign at the beginning of the track informed us that we were 5 hours from Happy Daze Hut (which sounded far more pleasant to me - but what do I know?). Alan and Warren kept a steady stream of information coming my way about the native vegetation (yes, I do know why the pepper tree is so named), and bird life. Soon, however, the wide path deteriorated into a thick dense mass of vegetation, which I was assured was the track. Conversation stopped & I began to realise why Toitoti grass is also known as cutty grass. After forcing our way through and arriving somewhat dishevelled at the other side, we then found ourselves floating (well almost) through a forest carpeted with thick moss - bliss!

With the sun still shining we began to climb along a ridge to 1232m. About halfway up we began walking on crisp snow. At the summit we stopped to have a rest, and some water and scroggin (new word) before leisurely tramping, slipping and snowballing our way down to Leon Kinvig Hut on the banks of the Pohangina River.

Unsurprisingly we had the hut to ourselves and whilst Buzz cooked us a gourmet meal, complete with wine chilled using snow, Warren & I tried to keep the place warm with a fire & we marvelled at the clear sky

revealing 1000's of stars - absolutely beautiful. A quick flick through the Macpac catalogue (you Kiwis really know how to party) and we were in bed by 8-15(ish).

The next day brought a heavy frost but a glorious clear & sunny day, and a new problem to me - how to tie frozen boot laces! We returned the way we'd come, with frequent stops to take photos, admire the views, & generally gloat about how lucky we'd been to get out this weekend. The drive back to town was sweetened with a final new Kiwi experience - Hokey Pokey ice cream!

DAY TRAMP TO STANFIELDS June 15 1997

The day was a good one, in fact, it was positively summer-like in the sun and shelter. We all met in from Dannevirke at the Tamaki Road West car park, and set off to the popular Stanfields Hut via Holmes Ridge (road). A bit of a sweat. Lovely views of the Tamaki valley and environs, and over to our afternoon's destination, Takapari Road. The farmer had had his cattle in the area recently, but luckily it was fairly dry. Cattle tend to make a real mess of the place. We ambled through to Stanfields Hut, enjoying glorious winter sunshine and an early lunch stop. A quick map check confused us somewhat, because there is more than one "official" track climbing up to the main ridge/ Takapari Road. The "lost track" is the most northern, and is no longer marked on the maps. It follows the northern catchment boundary (from the Cattle Creek Hut Track), right to Takapari trig itself. Overgrown. The main track climbs up from behind Stanfields Hut to the ridge, and there is a clear track right along to Takapari Road. There is another track climbing out of the Tamaki River just at where Holmes track meets it, but none of us had tramped this track. It too looked overgrown. Then there is the main, muddy track down to the car park from the A Frame. This was our destination.

The stiff climb up into the ridge top in the leatherwood soon awarded us with good views of the Tamaki valley. Another "lunch" stop, complete with primus fired up and a brew. It was chilly, but still clear, so we also had pleasant views of Mt Ruapehu beyond the rugged leatherwood-clothed Centre Creek catchment. Talking about that particular plant species, the area that we were tramping through must be the leatherwood capital of the world. Its incredible to see entire hillsides, valleys, and plateaus clothed in the much despised plant. And there was us in the middle of it all, strolling along a wide luxurious track, then an even more (four wheel drive) luxurious road. Presently, we came to Travers Hut, more passionately known simply as the "A frame" for obvious reasons. Not the tidiest of huts, but it would at times provide valuable shelter. We then set off on the notoriously muddy descent track to the car park! My god, what a steep, grotty, and somewhat overgrown affair. It seemed to take longer than it should to descend, pushing through some pampas grass and losing the track some times. We were pretty glad to reach the cars!

Day trippers were; Tony, Marleen, Margaret, Martin, Dave, Angela, Neil, Steve, and Jenny.

MIDWINTER CELEBRATION - KAWHATAU BASE June 21-22 David Grant

Hard to realise that half the year has almost gone, the shortest day is upon us, and the weather has to get worse if the law of averages is to prevail !!!! Anyway with these thoughts at the back of our minds we departed the Foodtown car park a bit after 7 am en route to Kawhatau Base for the traditional midwinter celebration. Arrived at the base about 9.30am after an uneventful trip to find the weather had deteriorated to a cool mountain misty state which served to ensure we unpacked the vehicles and got the wood range and the log fire in the base going as quickly as possible before considering doing something more in the tramping line. Leaving Warren behind in the warmth (you should ask him sometime how he hurt his foot) Maree led the rest of us out to climb to Colenso high point. Several windfalls in the lower beech forest indicated recent stormy weather but didn't impede our progress too badly.

Just below the bush line we stopped for a snack and as the weather hadn't improved only four of us decided to continue on to Colenso, the rest returning to the base. There was little evidence of the previous week's snow left on the ridge to Colenso. After the compulsory photo by the trig we also turned for home, pausing only to lob a few rocks through the ice covering the tarn, and admire a brief view of the upper Kawhatau farmland through a break in the cloud. On the way down through the bush we were rewarded by the sight of several small flocks of robins and a couple of wood pigeons.

We arrived back at base to join the others in a welcome bowl of pumpkin soup prepared by Warren. Richard and I ventured down to the Kawhatau river for a bit of a look and Maree went for a 10km run just to finish the day off. By this stage we had also been joined by Warren Soufflot and Penny. Then it was into the serious

stuff of decorating the quarters, preparing the food and settling in for a good time. What a feast we had on the varied fare that had brought !! And all by candle and gaslight since the generator wasn't working. In between courses we yarned and sang and by about 10pm everyone was totally stuffed (literally) and it was all they could do to toddle off to bed.

Morning time, a leisurely breakfast (except for Warren S and Penny who were off to watch the Kawhatau section of the Daybreaker car rally) and then we had to resolve the vexed question of accomplishing the customary midwinter dip. We'd had vegies dipped in cottage cheese the night before, fruit dipped in chocolate fondue for breakfast, now it was time for bodies dipped in water. Outside the mist was coming down, inside Warren W still had his sore foot. We had to pool all our mental resources to solve the problem but accomplished this we did by all standing together in the bath half full of warm water !! Honour satisfied (just).

With that we broke camp and headed back to civilisation having celebrated another midwinter in typical staunch PNTMC style !! Thanks Warren W for the organisation. We were Warren W, Richard, Maree, Gina, Alan, Lawrence, Heather, Warren S, Penny, & David.

TRACK AND CLUE AWARENESS 21-22 June by Terry Crippen

Looking for those thousands of clues left behind by the person lost in the hills. Yes thousands! This was the scheme of things on a NZ Land SAR training weekend that I attended as the club rep. A full-on weekend including night searches following faint track marks and broken twigs by torch. Its part of a upgrade in techniques being introduced to the Search and Rescue organisation in NZ. Along with Sound sweeping and purposeful wandering etc on an earlier weekend. Sixteen of us from clubs in the region and the Police were seen bum-up and head-down with our tracking sticks round the Wanganui area. Mind you it takes 1000's of hours to become an expert tracker.

HAURANGI RANGE June 28-29 by Harley Betts

My introduction to tripping around with the PNTMC, and, I'm sure, the start of a long addiction! This was the easy option of two PNTMC trips run in the area - the other a "fit" trip led by Graham Peters - and we were a party of five: Terry Crippen, Gina Fermor, Trudi Aspden, Jonathan Openshaw and myself.

On a clear, frosty Saturday morning we travelled southward through the Wairarapa, stopping off at Martinborough for a bite to eat and a coffee. One of the local craft shops proudly displayed a sheep and a couple of other creatures made from rough driftwood, going cheap at only \$1,550 for the three. Who needs to work when it seems you can bring in top dollars with a few bits of driftwood and a pot of glue?

Onwards to the carpark below the Putangirua pinnacles, where we spent a few hours looking though the main gully and eventually climbing up to the gully head. Just as the June newsletter promised it was a very strange landscape, with innumerable columns and towers rising sheer from the loose gravelly stream bed. With conditions being overcast by this time, the charcoal-grey forms of the pinnacles combined with the heavy sky created a very moody atmosphere, and our voices echoed eerily between the gully walls. A quick scramble onto the ridge above the main gully allowed us brief glimpses of the greater Palliser Bay coastline to the west, spectacular through the low, ragged cloud base.

After returning to the carpark, we drove on towards the Mangatoetoe Valley, near Cape Palliser. We also took along Tony's car from the Pinnacles carpark, to relieve Graham's fit party from a 20-30km walk back to the Pinnacles from Mangatoetoe. Along the remote south coast we passed through the quiet village of Ngawi, tightly wedged in between the sea and towering greywacke hills behind. The row of rusting bulldozers at the top of the beach, each with a fishing boat attached ready for launching, made no secret of the main industry here. After roughly an hour's stroll up the valley we arrived at the Mangatoetoe Hut, only to find it already occupied by two very dead-looking pigs courtesy of a hunting party. Deciding they wouldn't have been the best of company, we continued up-valley and pitched camp near the stream a short distance away from the hut. Obliging, the rain held off until the last few mouthfuls of our evening meal, and the rest of the evening was spent gathered under Terry's tent fly, teaching Trudi and Jonathan the finer points of cut-throat 500. Trying to keep score without pen and paper proved a bit too challenging, so it was an honourable 5-way draw in the end.

The following morning was spent back on the coast, where a heavy swell from the overnight southerly was pounding spectacularly on the foreshore. We strolled along the beach towards Kupe's Sail, an impressive outcrop of sandstone which was well worth the short climb to the top for a look. Near Cape Palliser, the local seals (easier to find by scent than sight) were indifferent to our presence, and a couple of males were seen to be engaged in what seemed like a yawning contest. With the huge waves thundering in, we were amazed how the seals seemed to be able to negotiate the rocks through deadly-looking surf, yet they made it look all too easy.

After a brief lunch at the Cape we headed back north, stopping off at the Mt Bruce Wildlife reserve, although we only had time for a much-needed coffee and a quick look at one of their Takahe before closing time. All in all, an enjoyable trip to a place well worth going back to.

TOKA

Sunday, July 6th

Susan Carter

Laurence, Heather, Neil and Susan went up to Toka in the southern Ruahines on Sunday (6th) and admired a clear view of Ruapehu and Taranaki before we disappeared into cloud near the top. Thick frost hanging off every tree and a bit of snow along the Ngamoko range made up for the lack of view though, and we played on the tops for a short (cold) while before heading back down through beech forest. Heard bellbird/tui and warblers and saw a weta, lots of paradise shelduck and mud. The track was in pretty good condition and easy going. About 6 hours round trip of great, relaxed tramping.

TONGARIRO CROSSING

14-15 June 1997

This trip unfortunately did not go despite 5 starters, lots of snow and a brilliant forecast. Instead the Friday the 13th Gremlin struck, with Warren Wheeler (replacing trip leader Toby Bunn who was nursing a crook leg) getting out of bed rather carelessly and stomping on his left foot so hard that later X-rays showed a chipped bone end amongst the not unspectacular bruising. Makes one wonder if Toby has contacts upstairs...or downstairs, wherever the gremlins live. The foot and Warrens' pride should be healed in time for his programmed Ruapehu Trip in August, and the much looked forward to Crossing trip has been postponed, probably September 13-14 - contact Warren, 356-1998, to register your interest and confirm a date to suit.