



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - December/January 1998-99

*****THIS ISSUE*****

NEWS:

Next year's Trip Card, and a few words from the President

TRIP REPORTS:

**Egmont summit camp, Paratetaitonga climb
Navigation & river crossing, Ventura Crash & Mick**

CLUB NIGHTS

JANUARY 28	CLUB B-B-Q	Horseshoe Bend
FEBRUARY 11	BYO Slide Night	
FEBRUARY 25	Massey Rock Wall	

Club nights are held for all club members and visitors on the second and last Thursday of each month at the **Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North**. All club nights commence at 7:45 pm, winter or summer. The PNTMC Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month.

At the club night: Please sign your name in the visitors book. There is a door fee of 50c which includes supper.

UP AND COMING TRIPS & EVENTS

Trip Grades

Grades 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 hrs

Medium (M): 5-6 hrs

Fit (F): about 8 hrs

Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

(T) refers to technical trips requiring special skills and/or gear.

Beginners should start with Easy Grade trips.

Jan 1-5 Mid-fold Traverse (aka Mick to Rovers Hill) F Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Depart early. Starting from the Otaki side of the ranges and heading east across the Mid-fold of the Tararua Park Map for 4 or 5 days. This will be a bit of a bush bash, (understatement!!) with little track travel, the aim being to keep within a 1 km wide corridor along line 43 on the 1:50,000 Levin map. For the statistically minded the walk is about 40km involving 5000m total climbing, 10 river crossings, 2 peaks over 1500m plus a short side trip to Mitre 1571m the highest peak in the Tararua Park, and 3 huts along the way. We will be fly camping to keep in the spirit of this cross country adventure. The dates for this are somewhat flexible - let me know when would suit instead. Only fool-hardy masochists need apply. Contact Warren Wheeler (the one who got lost just getting (not) up to Mick and the Venture Crash) 356-1998.

PS A more "gentle" trip is a possible alternative - crossing from the Otaki to the Ruamahunga along the Mid-fold in the middle section only. An easy 4 days this. Maybe.

Jan 16-17 Kuripapango Kaweka Range All
Liz & Arthur Todd 323-6246

A very leisurely weekend for all ages, including families, using Kuripapango as a base camp (access by car). We have the choice of Robsons Lodge (a largish DoC hut with 'wetback' for hot water, and generator) or heaps of room for camping (recommended if weather is fine & warm). Cost \$8/person for hut, \$4/person for camping. As for the tramping, a wide range of

daytrips or short walks possible, with good fishing rivers also. Meet at Kuripapango, anytime Friday afternoon onwards. Give Arthur or Lis a ring for any further details.

Jan 16 Iron Gates Gorge E
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Leave Saturday 9am. Wander along the high level track past Heritage Lodge and rock hop down the Oroua River to the short gorge which separates the ranges from the papa cliffs in spectacular fashion. Bring swimming togs or change of clothes to pack float through the gorge. Optional walk up through a scenic reserve if you don't want to get wet.

Jan 17 Oruakeretaki loop M
Kathryn Lauchland-Farquhar 356-8295

Depart 8am. Set in the southeast Ruahines, the plan is to make our way up one spur to Keretaki Hut & back down another spur, or the river route could add variety.

Jan 21 Thursday trampers
Bev Akers 325-8879

Anniversary Weekend

Jan 23-25 Ohau Mitre Flats M/F
Warren Soufflot 353-0224

Depart Sat 7am. A great summer tramp for the long weekend. Following the classic 'northern crossing' route, we make our way up the Ohau River and Yeats track to Te Matawai Hut for Friday night. Sunday head up to Arete & then south over the spectacular Waiohine Pinnacles, with great views down the upper Waiohine River valley. Overnight at Blatchford Hut then over Mitre, the highest point in the Tararuas, and out to the roadend via Mitre Flats to complete the weekend.

Jan 28 Thursday trampers
Judy Callesen 357-0192

Jan 28 **Club Night: BBQ Horseshoe Bend**
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

From about 6-30pm. The first club night for the year, with a traditional BBQ at Horseshoe Bend on the Tokomaru River. A good chance to catch up with friends and compare tramping notes, have a swim in the river, and a feed. Bring all your goodies to eat and share, togs and towel.

Directions: head to Tokomaru past Massey and Linton, turn left at main crossroad in Tokomaru (just after school) and follow the signs to Horseshoe Bend Reserve a few km inland.

Jan 30-31 Sunrise Hut + E
Richard Lockett 323-0948

Depart Saturday 12 noon. A very laid back overnight tramp up to Sunrise Hut - a good chance to bring the kids along. Chance for a wander beyond the hut along the tops.

Jan 31 Titahi Rock all, I
Zoe Hart 353-0774

At the time of going to print, Zoe may not be able to lead this trip, but give her or the trip co-ordinators a ring for any details.

Feb 4 Thursday trampers
Monica Cantwell 326-9691

Feb 4 Committee Meeting

Waitangi Weekend

Feb 6-8 Mt Arthur, Kahurangi NP M
Tony Gates 357-7439

Plan is to fly to Nelson, then drive to Graham Saddle carpark, which is located just near the bushline on the slopes of Mt Arthur. There are lots of easy tracks there, and several magnificent rock bivvis, some with mattresses! We should be able to have several pleasant day trips on the tussock tops from a good base camp not too far from the car. It a lovely area.

Feb 6-7 Waitewaewae M
Peter Burgess 354-3533

Depart 8am. A relaxing 4-5 hour tramp in from Otaki Forks to the luxurious Waitewaewae Hut on the Otaki River. Features a historic old railway line used for logging and the remains of an old steam engine. Once there we can either laze around at the hut or go for a wander further up the Otaki (depending on river conditions and enthusiasm). As mentioned the hut is very plush, but there is also ample camping across the river. Return by the same route.

Feb 11 Thursday trampers

Liz Flint 356-7654

Feb 11 **Club Night: BYO slides and photos**
Bring along your slides and photos from those summer tramps & share your experience with the rest of the club.

Feb 13-14 Blue Range - Arete F
Peter Darragh 323-4498

Depart 7am. Peter will take you in from Kiriwhakapapa in the eastern Tararuas, across Blue Range & down over Cow Saddle on to the rugged tops of Waingawa and Bannister. Stay overnight at Arete Forks Hut then back down the sidle track & out via Blue Range on Sunday.

Feb 14 Titahi Rock all, I
Laurence Gatehouse 356-5805

Come do a little rock climbing on sea cliff down towards Wellington. I'm a bit rusty at climbing but assuming I remember to borrow a guide book will be an ideal introduction to rock climbing with nothing of great difficulty or height on the menu. A civilised start time of 8.30 Foodtown carpark.

Feb 18 Thursday trampers
Graham Pritchard 357-1391

Feb 20-21 SAREX M/F, I
Mick Leyland 358-3183

PNTMC will be getting a team together for this exercise. If you are interested, stay in touch with Mick for details.

Feb 21 Harris Creek E/M
Liz Flint 356-7654

Depart 7-30am. A nice leisurely tramp up the Mangahao valley to Harris Creek Hut and beyond for a picnic lunch. Tramping via the river, weather permitting. There's also some lovely swimming holes so bring your togs & a towel.

Feb 25 Thursday trampers
Pam Wilson 357-6247

Feb 25 **Club Night: Massey Rock Wall**
Stay tuned for details in February newsletter.

Trip leaders:

Please discuss with the trips co-ordinator (Terry Crippen 356-3588, or Liz Flint 356-7654), as soon as possible, if there is any doubt that you will be unable to run your trip as scheduled. This is so that alternatives can be arranged, put in the newsletter, or passed on at club night.

Trip participants:

If you are interested in going on a trip, please advise the leader **at least three days** in advance.

Trips often leave from the Foodtown carpark in Fergusson Street unless the leader arranges otherwise.

A charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip, the amount depending on the distance travelled and vehicles used. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance.

For general information on the scheduled or alternative tramps please contact one of the trip co-ordinators Terry Crippen (356-3588) or Liz Flint (356-7654).

***** OVERDUE TRIPS *****

Enquiries to: Mick Leyland (358-3183), Liz Flint (356-7654), or Laurence Gatehouse (356-5805)

NOTICES

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PC

End of the Year already, what a rush. I am really looking forward to catching up with family and friends over the holidays and no doubt you are too. I don't know what Santa has in store for me but the Club had a nice pre-Christmas present thanks to Central and Eastern Community Trust giving us \$1000 for avalanche transceivers and navigation equipment (compasses). The Committee has since agreed that 3 transceivers should be purchased at an extra cost of up to \$200 from Club funds.

While we are on the subject of the Committee I should mention that Maree Limpus has been volunteered on to replace Sarah Stratton. Sarah has gone to a nice new job in New Plymouth so we won't be seeing quite so much of her, but she intends to keep in touch. Maree now works for DoC in PN so is our very own liaison officer - aren't we spoilt? Maree has quickly learned that being on the committee is all about empowerment, putting ones ideas into action, yes. As a result of her good ideas she is now looking after the End-Of-Millennium Mid Winter Festivities - all rightie.

The End-of-Year BBQ was another relaxing evening at Brian Lawrence's country residence. It was good to catch up with the 20 or so others who were there and the weather was once again fine, despite the wet morning. The highlight of the evening must surely have been the Prize-giving, although the Jelly Tip Icecream would have come a close second. Bruce entertained with his revelations and amusing anecdotes related to each award. These included the Welcome to the 20th

Century Award to Terry for answering his camera instead of his new cellphone on his first call; the Mt Aspiring Cross-dressing(?) Award to Maree for wearing her plastic boots on the wrong feet all morning; the Remington Award to Dave Grant for "liking it so much I bought the shop"; the Dave Hodges Award for Excellence in the Pursuit of Forgetfulness to Peter Wiles for leaving someone's pack behind; the Flash Goretex Award to Janet Wilson for her brightly colour coordinated mountain gear; The Pauline Hanson Politically Correct Award to Warren Soufflot and Wayne Bennett for trying to empty a hut full of vegetarians by frying up enormous juicy steaks.

As usual we all(?) ate too much, but hey we're in practise for the coming festive season. Thanks to everyone for blowing up the balloons, firing up the BBQ's and making it such an enjoyable evening. Thanks, Brian, for having us at your place for the last few years. We will be at a different venue next year. Any offers?

Well, the summer tramping and mountaineering season is upon us, and already stories are emerging from the Deep South of trips to Mount Cook and thereabouts (thanks to Andy Backhouse and Bruce van Brunt). Good luck to the rest of you heading that way.

We have some excellent Club trips coming up over the New Year which offer more than enough opportunity to work off the excesses of any Christmas festivities, and to explore new territory. I wish everyone heading off on these, and any of your own trips, a safe and memorable adventure and look forward to being arm-chaired next year

into the wild and beautiful places you have discovered.

Happy tramping
Warren Wheeler

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

All kinds of articles, whether trip reports, interesting information & anecdotes, book reviews, or even a product review, are welcome for inclusion in this newsletter. If it is a small article, hand-written is okay (deliver to John Phillips, 87 Victoria Avenue) but if handwriting is all you can do, don't let it put you off even large articles.

If you *do* have access to a computer, it does make my job a bit easier if larger articles are on disc. However, more and more people are e-mailing articles to me. If you have the facilities at home or at work, this is a very quick & convenient way to do it. My e-mail address is:

john.phillips@mwrc.govt.nz

However, if you are e-mailing scanned photos, send your scan files to:

postmaster@mwrc.govt.nz

where all incoming scan files are processed by a software package and forwarded on to me. Any photo scan files e-mailed directly to me will be automatically rejected by the system, so make sure you send them to the 'postmaster' address at my work.

I use Microsoft Word Version 7.0. 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, try sending any files as an ".RTF" (Rich Text Format) file, which can sometimes be easily converted from one software format to another, or the safest bet is to just cut-and-paste your text directly into your e-mail message.

The deadline for anything to go in each month's issue is the FIRST THURSDAY of the month.

EVENTS CARD FOR JANUARY - JUNE 1999
Terry

The Events Card for the first half of next year is out. There is a wide range of trips and activities being run, tramping, rock climbing and a wee bit of caving. This time three of the long weekends (*Waitangi*, Easter and Queens Birthday) have club trips to the top of the South Island - so be in, the SI is closer than you think. Lots of scope nearer to home also for summer, autumn and the start of winter

Thank you all you leaders who have committed yourselves to lead trips. I'm sure all club members will actively support this good effort by going on lots of these trips and events. Don't forget to encourage flatmates, partners, parents, family and friends to come on these trips as well.

Please read the comments, regarding the grading of trips and participating on these, printed on the events card and at the start and finish of the listings in the Newsletter.

For further info. contact trip leaders, or the trip co-ordinators: Terry Crippen 356-3588 or Liz Flint 356-7654

A range of club evenings have been organised, with members and outside speakers, starting off with the traditional BBQ at Horseshoe Bend on the edge of the Tararuas near Tokomaru.

'GUIDE FOR TRIP LEADERS', PINK "HELP" FORM, and TRIP FEEDBACK FORM Terry Trip leaders don't forget your responsibilities when planning and leading trips. Make use of the Guide for Trip Leaders. This guide is also good value for all trip participants as it gives you an idea in whats involved. Please keep as reference.

Also included with this newsletter is a copy of the pink "Help" form put out by the NZ Mountain Safety Council for possible Search and Rescue purposes, for when you are leading club or other trips. Fill it in or use it as a guide to compile details, prior to the trips departure, (more available at Club nights). The Trip Feedback form is designed for getting feedback, either positive or negative, from those trips you go on, so the club can enhance your future outdoor experiences. Fill them in and drop into the flowery box at the back at club nights. (More copies are available, at club night or from your trip leader).

FOR SALE

Rock climbing boots. Little used, Boreal Bamba a rather small and pointy size 11. Actually the sizing is rather arbitrary and you will need to try them on. \$75. Please contact Laurence Gatehouse 3565805.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Duncan Hedderley has changed address to:
59 Keeling St, PN

Ph 356-1078

Ron deRose has moved to Tasmania. His contact address and phone number are:

172F Pottery Road
Lenah Valley
Hobart
Tasmania 7008
(0)3 62289835

TRIP REPORTS

EGMONT SUMMIT CAMP

14-15 November by Warren Wheeler

This was supposed to be a trip up to Syme Hut but with only two of us signed up Harley suggested we make the most of the fine weather, camp on the top and take some excellent time-exposures with Harley's new Pro-camera gear. Thus was born the Grand Egmont Photographic Expedition 1998.

We decided to tackle the mountain from North Egmont to avoid what little snow remained on the south side. Arriving at the Visitor Centre we found masking tape stuck on the floor showing the exceptional rainfall this year. Normally the annual rainfall is 7000mm but already there had been over 10,000mm with 2800mm in October alone. Surprisingly the tracks seem to have withstood this on-slaughter although a bridge on the SW side was washed out and the track diverted.

We headed straight up the Razor Back which was a bit of a killer as we got used to our loads in the hot afternoon sun. Harley was loaded up with all his photo gear in a separate pack strapped onto his other pack (total 29kg we found out later). This at least slowed him down so I could keep up and encouraged rest stops for photo opportunities.

From Humphries Castle we veered right towards the gully and followed the ridge beside this leading up on to the Lizard. This route is largely unpoled but is a good alternative in good viz as it avoids the notorious scree below the Lizard.

As expected there was very little snow about with just the usual tongue at North Entrance to be avoided by taking the poled rock route into the crater. There was snow in the crater and up to the summit but plenty of rocks exposed, so although

my ice axe wasn't really needed it came in handy at our campsite at the southern end of the summit ridge - flattening out the snow, shaping snow bollards for the guy ropes, hammering pegs into the ice, digging out a water hole. A water hole? Yes! The top snow was polluted with myriads of midges which seemed to be dying in clusters to create heat sinks to form hollows which pooled water which attracted more midges which died which made the hollow deeper for them to breed in. Neat.

We had taken almost 6 hours to wander up so the day was getting photogenic as we enjoyed dinner on the rocks - pasta, fruit salad, and blueberry toddy (another exotic treat from Sweden). With hardly a cloud in the sky there was no great sunset and with the new crescent moon (upside down - "haven't noticed that before") gone there was a perfect starry sky for the time-exposure shot that Harley wanted. While the 2 hours elapsed for the shot we spotted satellites (3 each) and shooting stars. Magic.

My 3-season down bag was a little light for sleeping on a carry mat on the snow, even with my woollies on. One advantage of all the clothing was that the mid-night dash to the loo was simply a matter of slipping the boots on. Must have been the lack of oxygen but I had dreams of floating down gently in our Spectrum tent after the side of the mountain collapsed under us.

No dawn chorus. No alarm. Just woke up anyway for the world famous dawn shadow on the clouds below. With the light easterly blowing it was a bit nippy for handling the cameras and at minus 5 degrees the icy snow granules made perfect porridge pot cleaning material - sort of like sandy gravel and not really cold at all (truly!!),

possibly because the snow is not melting. Anyone else noticed this effect?

We were not the only ones enjoying the view - 3 others turned up and disappeared without a hello and another couple arrived at 7.30 after a 3 hour climb as we were packing the tent away. After leaving the summit the wind dropped and the sunshine soon warmed us up so we changed back into T-shirt and shorts before heading down the rocky spine of the Lizard. This time we kept to the normal route and met several small parties grovelling up the scree and more below the long staircase where we entered the cloud layer covering the land in all directions.

The change in vegetation is particularly dramatic and colourful at this time of year with yellow buttercups and Egmont bright-eye blooming nicely above the bush line. We followed the Puffer, the 4-WD track servicing the transmitter tower, back down into the forest and dropped in to the Visitor Centre where we had lunch after a debrief with the friendly Ranger.

The trouble with these trips is the sleepy sunny drive home - the two ice-creams went down very nicely though. Summer is here with a vengeance, melted tar and all. Thanks Harley - we look forward to the slides.

The two of us were Harley Betts and Warren Wheeler.

HEREPAI HUT

22 November by Neil Campbell

We left PN at 8am and reached the Putara road end by about 9.30am. We started off with some very light drizzle which cleared up by afternoon. Just before the second swing bridge some trees and rocks had fallen across the track. There was no problem crossing this. Once we had got up to the ridge it felt a fair bit colder. We reached the Hut at about noon and had a very pleasant lunch. It was unfortunate to see evidence of vandalism on the inside. By the time we got back to the car, the day had become quite warm. We finished the day with an icecream at Eketahuna.

We were: Neil Campbell, Dennis and Alison Dickinson, Carolyn Brodie, Matt Day and Kirsteen Henderson.

NAVIGATION AND RIVER SAFETY

28th November by Lis Todd

Arthur and I arrived at the Ashhurst Domain after negotiating our way in past the wind farm wardens to find Terry and Warren standing in the middle of the road apparently digging a hole with their feet. They were trying to mark the spot at the end of the 100 meters they had just measured.

After parking the car we joined the group which also included Barry Bent, Diane Rutten and Janie-Lee Rutten. We then spent some time calibrating ourselves to pacing out 50 meters and then 100 meters to the infamous X on the road. Next came the exercise of trying to follow a compass bearing without looking up to see how far we veered to the right or the left. Finally the navigation exercise that took us on a short course across the domain down to the lower terrace, through the bush remnant and back to our start in the public shelter.

After a pleasant lunch at a convenient picnic table where we all help Warren with the onerous task of eating a large chip of strawberries (much appreciated Warren) our NZMSC instructor Noel Bigwood arrived along with Bruce Wotherspoon from Dannevirke, John Coote and Anne Morrison both from Wellington. Maree Limpus completed the participants for an afternoon of fun and frolics in the not so placid waters of the Pohangina River.

The afternoon session began with Noel going over the basic rules of river crossing, KNEE DEEP, SEE THE BOTTOM, AND WATER NOT MOVING FASTER THAN YOU CAN. He decided that the best place to practice river crossings would be above the Saddle Road Bridge so we jumped into the vehicles and made our way up river to the appointed place. Noel demonstrated the new method of linking up for a river crossing. This is a real winner as far as I am concerned. Under the old methods learned some 20 years ago I'd found myself on different occasions either dangling in the middle of a group who were far taller than me or being lost off the end. Minimum danger of that happening with this new technique and I'd encourage everyone to go find a group and practice it.

We linking up and practiced shuffling across the river, keeping as much tread on the bottom as we could. Then came the swimming exercises. The weather had not improved, it was cold, damp and the inevitable breeze down the river. Noel

demonstrated the correct way to float down the river on a pack (pack first not feet first) then turning so feet were at an angle to the current and paddling apparently up and away from the current when a suitable landing spot was sighted. On reaching land the technique was to roll off your pack, stand up and drag the pack out of the water. A number of us had a go and yes that river water was cold and the current was fast enough to make us work hard to reach the bank. Second big lesson learnt was undo the chest strap, really loosen those pack-straps off so you can easily get the arms out if required, and do the waist belt up good and tight.

The final exercise was for the true masochist. It involved simulating what to do if your pack becomes stuck on something while floating down a rapid and you have to release yourself from the pack to get free. A practice on dry land then into the water with Maree to show us how it is done. Well maybe? The result was Maree with pack still attached taking off with Noel doing a very good impression of an Olympic swimmer, in full pursuit. A very good advertisement for Oringi parkas. This is not an exercise for the faint hearted and I sure hope I never have to do it for real. After rolling over and over trying to get out of the pack I was rather bruised and felt like I'd swallowed half the Pohangina and I still had to get to the shore. I don't think I'll wear my parka next time I'm crossing a big river. Pockets can hold an awful lot of water as I found out when I tried to stand up.

Hey but it really was a good day and I am really pleased I decided to do a refresher course. A great big thank-you to Noel.

VENTURA CRASH & MICK

6th December by Dennis Dickinson

What's got 16 wheels, 12 beating hearts, a misguided leader and an 'hallucinating' member who entices with dreams of cups of cappuccino accompanied with cream and jam filled scones? (I could include an English gentleman who spent a disproportionate amount of time sliding on his derriere but this is a biographical report not an autobiographical report!). The answer is of course the December 6th 'Ventura crash & Mick' trip which was ably and informatively led by the fearless leader Warren Wheeler.

The trip departed from Palmerston North at 'about' 7-30 a.m. in brilliant sunlight and as per usual we traveled in convoy to our 'parking spot' just beyond the quarry off Waitohu Road in the Otaki area. For the less informed members of the trip Warren gave a short but detailed lesson on compass and map reading and then it was 'off'. After walking for approx. 15 minutes a decision had to be made as to whether we should be turning left or whether we should be proceeding onwards. At this point our leader was 'cajoled' into turning left, which was the wrong decision, but this would not be realised until 15 minutes before the end of the tramp.

The highlight of the trip for myself would be to 'discover' the final resting place of R.N.Z.A.F. 4573 which was a Ventura PV1 aircraft that crashed with the loss of 4 lives on the 28th February 1946 whilst on a meteorological flight. The reason for this is that many people say that they have been tramping in the Tararuas but to be able to pinpoint the exact area that you have been tramping in lends a little more purpose to your trip and credence to your story.

Our journey through the Tararuas was fairly typical for the region i.e. lots of undulations, saddles, a knob (named Mick), ridges, clearings, 'bushwhacking', stream crossings, the occasional sound and sight of a tui, cheeky little fantails, the unmistakable 'whoosh' of the native pigeon, signs but no sights that wild pig and deer had gone before us, all encompassing views of the Horowhenua, flora and fauna which must be seen, touched and smelled to be fully appreciated and the sound to make us realize that civilisation was within earshot - the sound of a motorcycle.

After approximately three hours of tramping my wife and I thought we had "bitten off more than we could chew" as this was only our second outing with the guys and gals of the PNTMC, but patience and understanding from our team leader and the luscious thought of cappuccino coffee and scones from one of the team members (name withheld on legal advice from our lawyer BUT the person does carry pruning shears with him to enhance(?) photographs of himself !) gave us the inspiration and determination to carry on, which was well worthwhile.

Lunch time at the pinnacle of our walk was a time for refreshment, relaxation and merriment. I can also report that Warren greatly enhanced his

position as President by serving strawberries to one and all! By this time we had all resolved to ourselves that the crashed Ventura had been engulfed in the passage of time by the native flora and fauna and we had missed it.

However, on the homeward trek to our surprise and delight we found the final resting place of the Ventura. As well as a crash site it is also a memorial to the 4 who lost their lives. The wreckage is well and truly scattered, but it was good to see that Kiwi ingenuity and humour is alive and well with several of our group giving thought to reassembling the aircraft and flying us all home (one member suggested that all that was needed was a can of CRC!)

Our journey back to the cars was uneventful except for the fact that Warren found the track that we should have originally taken had he not been cajoled at the start. Seeing the cars brought a sigh of relief.

In conclusion, this was an exciting, informative and pleasant trip which took my wife and I outside of our comfort zone and rewarded us. As I mentioned earlier, this was our second outing, but with the club's permission, it won't be our last.

We were (and hopefully still are!): Frances Woodhead, Kirsteen Henderson, Matt Day, Tony Gates, Warren Wheeler, Llew Pritchard, Mick Leyland, Russell Burr, Liz & Arthur Todd, Alison & Dennis Dickinson.

PARATETAITONGA CLIMB

13th December

By Matt Day

Leaving PN at 6-15am on a Sunday morning the weather was dull, and as Warren's non-door-slammng car headed to Ruapehu we were expecting windy cloudy conditions. However, things cleared up and by the time we were eating

pies and meeting the rest of the group in Ohakune it seemed to be as near a perfect day as possible.

At Turoa, sunscreen was duly applied and we all set off in T-shirts and shorts with the exception of Richard who decided the day was better suited to thermals. We wandered up to Mangaturuturu Shelter, on the edge of the snowline, for lunch. From there a couple of recent snow slumps were visible on the route we were hoping to take up. Warren re-counted his near-death avalanche experience just to keep our spirits up. The thermals were obviously keeping Richard nice and cosy as he decided to have a quick nap at this point.

We set off full of lunch only to be frozen in our tracks by "CRUMPP" "CRUMPPP". The avalanche tale fresh in our minds I half expected to swept off down the glacier. However we didn't see anything so we got the ice axes out and continued on, avoiding the ice balls which kept rolling towards us. We reached the plateau and took various pictures of the steaming lake before heading off to Paratetaitonga. About halfway up we spotted a crack in the snow - Richard and Maree, who had been on the Glaciercraft course the previous day, immediately spotted it as a crevasse. Not quite believing this 2-inch gap could be a problem, I was amazed when subsequent poking with ice axes revealed a 30-foot drop.

We decided that the whole area looked unstable so we turned back and attempted to sledge down as much of the snow as possible. On the way back down we found some excellent pools for a quick dip followed by a most amazing spring which was gushing water out in a 20-foot jet. We got back to the car for 5-30pm thoroughly sunburnt, having had a fantastic day's weather & walking on the mountain.

We were: Warren Wheeler, Matt Day, Richard Lovell and Maree Limpus.

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 Enquiries	: Liz Flint	356-7654
	: Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Gear Custodian	: Mick Leyland	358-3183
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deliver articles/disks to:	87 Victoria Avenue, P.N.	358-1874 (home)
e-mail articles to:	phillips@mwrc.govt.nz	
Trip Co-ordinators	: Terry Crippen	356-3588
	: Liz Flint	356-7654

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