



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - March 1999

THIS ISSUE

NEWS:

**Mountain Equipment News, a Book Review,
Correspondence from International members**

TRIP REPORTS:

**Centaur Peaks (Rees Valley Part II),
Waingawa / Arete Forks, Waitewaewae Hut,
and SAR Training**

CLUB NIGHTS

MARCH 11	“Painting the Mountains”	John Gates
MARCH 25	AGM / Wine & cheese	
APRIL 1	Committee meeting	
APRIL 8	“Canada & the Yukon”	Maree Limpus
APRIL 29	“Kayaking in China”	Andy Backhouse

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.

Mar 11 Thursday trampers
 Nevelle Gray 357-2768

Mar 11 Club Night: "Painting the Mountains" with John Gates

John Gates has been tramping and climbing around New Zealand for over 50 years. A talented and productive artist, he has drawn and painted many mountain scenes. He will present the Tramping Club with a display of some of his work, and if you are lucky, John will show you how it is done. And if you are *extremely lucky* (and bring your cheque book), you might just be able to purchase a pickie of your liking.

Mar 13 (Sat) Roaring Stag M
 Sarah Todd 326-9265

A nice walk in the NE Tararuas, alongside the beautiful upper Mangatainoka River, then over a hill and down through moody forest to Roaring Stag Lodge on the Ruamahanga River.

Note: This has been moved from March 27

Mar 13-14 Egmont Rock all, I
 Andy Backhouse 353-0774

Andy is visiting his old friend the Snotgobbler on the slopes of Taranaki. He's really very friendly & not at all slimy. And you can do some fun single pitch or top-roped rock climbing whilst you're visiting his lair. Grades from 11 upwards depending on how hungry he is. Interested? - ring Andy & see what's on the menu.

Note: This has been moved from Feb 27-28.

Mar 14 Burn Hut revisit E/M

Llew Pritchard 358-2217

Depart 7-30am. A walk from the 2nd Mangahao Dam in through forest then scrub to Burn Hut, a Deerstalkers Association hut in the northern Tararuas.

Mar 18 Thursday trampers
 John Rockell 357-4126

Mar 21 Powell Jumbo F
 Maree Limpus 025 395-883

Depart 6-30am. For the more fit, this is a great loop walk in the eastern Tararuas, first climbing to Powell Hut below Mt Holdsworth, then north along the ridge with great views across Wairarapa & back to the southern & inland Tararua ranges.

Mar 21 Maharahara Crossing M
 Kevin Pearce 357-0217

Depart 7am. An 800m climb & crossing of the southern Ruahines. Good views of both sides, and *the* place to venture through the infamous leatherwood unhindered! If enough takers, we can organise a double crossing & exchange car keys at the summit to save on transport.

Mar 25 Thursday trampers
 June Sowerby 355-2690

Mar 25 Club Night "Wine & Cheeze and AGM"

Starts 7-45pm. This evening will kick off in a leisurely fashion with the serious stuff (wine & cheese that is!) first. Have a chat with other members over a wine & nibbles about nominees for club positions. Remember that nominations for Patron, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and general Committee members really need to be given in writing to our Secretary (Sarah Todd) *before* the AGM, which will commence after the wine and cheese when spirits will be high and members' interest in the administration of our club will be at a peak!

Nomination forms will be available at the Wine & Cheese; include the position, name of person you are nominating, your name as proposer, and name of a seconder. So come along for a drink & chat, grab some nomination forms, discuss & decide on

your nominations, and have your say on who & how your club is run. See you all there.

Mar 27-28 Harley's Special: Syme Hut & Wilkies Pools M
Harley Betts 355-4737

This is the same trip to a favourite stomping ground previously offered in November 1998. Depart 8am Saturday. From Dawson Falls the track begins in lush montane forest, quickly climbing through a lowering canopy into open shrubland, golden tussock slopes and eventually the bare scoria slopes of the upper part of Fantham's Peak. Syme Hut can be reached comfortably within 3-4 hours at a cruisy pace (less than 2 hours if you're a masochist), and the outlook from this unique environment is up there with the best in the North Island. The hut itself, at 1950m, is well placed for brilliant sunset views in all directions - and the loo is great for sunrises!

If there is enough interest, a summit climb from the hut (about 2 hrs) may be on for the sunrise on Sunday. Returning to Dawson Falls, there is a 10-15 minute diversion to the picturesque Wilkie's Pools which are well worth the few extra paces - a bit cool to swim in, but definitely recommended for a quick and incredibly refreshing dip. On the way back to PN stop for the famous "two huge scoops for 30c" ice creams at the Sunshine Dairy.

Mar 28 Cattle Creek Hut M
Mick Leyland 358-3183

Depart 8am. A walk from Tamaki Reserve that includes a wander up the Tamaki River and over to Cattle Creek Hut for lunch & maybe return along the ridge to the carpark.

Note: Trip leader on tripcard is Liz Flint, but Mick is now taking this one.

Apr 1 Thursday trampers
Peter Carver 354-4479

Apr 1 Committee Meeting

EASTER

Apr 2-5 Ruahine Circuit M
Duncan Grant 356-9097

A big chance for a cracker 4-day extended trip in our local ranges. There's great tramping on PN's back doorstep! Exact route to be decided, so give Duncan a ring to discuss.

Note: Nelson Lakes trip cancelled.

day Easter Eggmont M/F

Warren Wheeler 356-1998

As with last year, there will be several options for this trip, depending on what you would like to do. The overall plan is to climb Mt Egmont-Taranaki and celebrate Easter and the end of the no-snow season (ah well, yes we have left it very late this year). Plan A is to go up the East Ridge from the Plateau carpark above Stratford (about 4 hours). Leave PN at 5.30am. Plan B is to make use of the full Easter climbers moon and ascend in time for the dawn at around 6am. Leave PN the evening before and camp out. Return from the summit via the Lizard and the North face or the less touristic Surrey Rd exit to the north-east, taking in Humphries Castle one way and Warwicks Castle the other (these are impressive little lava outcrops).

This trip will go on the day with the best weather.

Apr 8 Thursday trampers
Phil Pearce 354-6687

Apr 8 Club Night: "Canada & the Yukon" Maree Limpus

This looks like an enthralling evening, with club member Maree showing slides & talking about her adventures to North America in July-August last year, including backpacking solo (1 month) in the British Columbian Rockies, the west coast of Alaska and Canada, and Yukon.

Apr 10-11 Daphne Ridge M
Peter Burgess 354-3533

Depart 8am. The aim of this trip will be to traverse the undulating ridge between Longview Hut and Howletts Hut in the Ruahines. Start at Kashmir road end with a moderate climb to Longview. Depending on conditions, the keenness of the party etc. we can either continue across the open tops as far as Howletts for the night or drop down to Daphne Hut before returning via the Tukituki River. This trip combines open tops, bush and river tramping in one fun-filled package!

Apr 11 Daphne Hut M
Richard Lockett 323-0948

Depart 7-30am. A walk from near the old Moorcock Base, over the hill & down through nice forest to the Tukituki River, then a short wade upstream through the beautiful Daphne

Gorge to the hut for lunch. Maybe meet up with the weekend party for the tramp back out.

Apr 15 Thursday trampers
 Carolyn Brodie 358-6576

Apr 17-18 Full Pohangina M/F
 Graeme Roberts 357-8567

Depart 7am. Walk from Kashmir Roadend up to Longview Hut and the source of the Pohangina River. A weekend of river travel with a mixture of open valley and lovely gorges. Downriver via Top Gorge and Leon Kinvig Huts to Ngamoko Hut for Saturday night, continuing on via mid-Pohangina & out to Pohangina Base Sunday.

Apr 18 Herepai Hut E/M
 Neil Campbell 359-5048

A leisurely jaunt in the northeastern Tararuas, taking a nice riverside walk and forest on the way to Herepai Hut. On a fine day, a climb beyond the hut up onto the tussock tops for some views.

Apr 22 Thursday trampers
 Merv Matthews 357-2858

Apr 24-25 Tama TNP weekend M
 Patrick Janssen 356-3116

Depart 8am. This is a fairly leisurely weekend into an interesting area of Tongariro National Park. Walking from Whakapapa across to camp around upper Tama Lake. Perhaps some exploring of the surrounding area on Sunday morning, then packing up after lunch to return to the cars.

Apr 25 Deadman's/Rangi M
 Mick Leyland 358-3183

Depart 8am. We'll be heading up the alternative "Deadmans" track from the Rangi carpark and cutting across the tussock to Rangi Hut for lunch. Probably return down Rangi Track.

Apr 29 Thursday trampers
 Harry & Chris Allardice 323-4390

**Apr 29 Club Night: "Kayaking in China"
 Andy Backhouse**

In 1988, Andy became a medical officer on a schools expedition to circumnavigate Lake Qing Hai, China's largest lake, by sea kayak. The lake is salty & lies at 3100m on the plateau that extends into Tibet. The area had not been visited much by Westerners since the 1920s. This club night should be a fascinating insight into Chinese culture, how Tibetan nomads are viewed & the effects of the Cultural Revolution on the people & the environment.

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

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 at home address: 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. Use my work e-mail address:

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.

WHARITE ACCESS

For those with activities near Wharite in mind, NZ Broadcasting are restricting public access under the Wharite tower during February-March 1999, due to tower and building renovations.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Laurence and Heather Gatehouse have a new address:

6 Kent Crescent,
Palmerston North.

Their home phone number will remain the same (06) 3565805.

FOR SALE

Snow chains (normal ones, which are better and just as easy to fit when done the correct way, as the so-called quick-fit ones). For wheels with 12" to 14" rims (most normal size tyres: 135R14, 155R12, etc.) \$75-00 Phone Terry 356-3588.

MSC FIRST-AID & BUSHCRAFT COURSES

The Manawatu branch of the Mountain Safety Council has a busy schedule of courses on offer (as usual) this year, with a few being:

First Aid (Dianne Siegenthaler 357-7237):
March 19-21 and May 28-30

Bushcraft (Noel Bigwood 357-9999 work, 357-0116 home):

Part 2: May 1999 (Noel)

Part 3: June 1999 (Noel)

Part 4: July 1999 (Warren Granger 359-2890)

The Bushcraft courses follow on from the basic Part 1 course, so presumes *some* knowledge of tramping, map & compass work, safety, etc.

A WORD FROM TASMANIA

Life is moving along here OK. The job's OK as jobs go I suppose. At least its good to have a regular income again. Still haven't got around to buying a car yet though. Soon I hope. So haven't been doing as much tramping as I would like as I'm having to rely on others.

Went to Freycinet the other week and that was great, although having to search for water at night is a big contrast to Kiwi tramping where it runs down the neck (here also but as sweat). Off to walk along the overgrown Apt Railway next week. Once in a lifetime opportunity because some tourist company has bought the rights and are going to redevelop it and put a bulldozer through to lay new tracks. Other than that, tried to climb Mt Anne early on but got turned back by

shitty weather. Still hope to see some more of the west coast later on. Enough to wet the appetite??

Well all the best and hope all's well in Palmy. Hi to everyone.

Ron DeRose

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NEWS FROM MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

Greetings all! We have had a very busy summer, and it is showing no signs of slowing down. There are four important items of news. We have a new full-timer working in the shop. Nicole has just joined the team after traveling, working, and climbing in the UK, Europe, Africa, and Australia. It would be great if you could make her feel welcome and say hello!

The next item is how to save money. This is really simple, and hopefully a chance to catch up with your friends too. We are having a sale in March (starting Tuesday 16th) and all the tramping club members are invited along to pick up the best bargains the night before the sale starts. There will be food and drinks, so come along from 7pm to 9pm on Monday 15th March. There may even be some mystery prizes but you'll have to come along to find out more!

The third item is to increase your knowledge of the clothing and equipment available in the outdoors. Luke Bardsley from Adventure One in Christchurch is coming along to our shop to talk to you about some of his climbing exploits, and also to tell you more about the fantastic range of One Planet and Adventure Designs gear. He'll show the latest clothing, and talk about recent developments. There will be a "fashion parade", food, drink, and entertainment - and it costs nothing. We have also managed to twist Luke's arm enough to be able to offer some specials for the night on fleece, GoreTex rainwear, sleeping bags, and packs. So come along to Mountain Equipment on Thursday 18th March 7pm to 9pm.

The last item of news is that we now hire out Res-Q Personal Locator Beacons. These are small and

lightweight so are very easy to carry. Once the beacon has been activated in an emergency the time spent by SAR will be significantly reduced, which will increase your survival chances in an accident, and will also save a lot of money as the searching will be much quicker and more accurate. These are for a different purpose to the mountain radios, and in an ideal situation both would be carried. The hire cost starts from \$8 per day, which decreases as the hire period extends. Drop in or call us for more details.

Club Sale night Monday 15th March

One Planet and Adventure Designs product information evening Thursday 18th March

I hope we'll see you at both of these special nights, so warmest regards to you all till then from the Mountain Equipment Team.

BOOK REVIEW by Tony Gates
"Eiger Dreams" by Jon Krakauer (1990)

Krakauer was on Rob Hall's ill fated Everest expedition in May 1996, and wrote an award winning book about it. This is a review of his first book, a collection of stand alone short stories about mountaineering that follows some of Krakauer's mountaineering life leading up to the May 1996 disaster. Ominously, he writes in one chapter about "A bad summer on K2", when, ten years before the Everest disaster, there were numerous lives lost in a series of storms.

The title story is a failed attempt of the famous North Wall of the Eiger, and the associated waiting for clear weather. There are humorous and revealing biographical (in the mountaineering sense) chapters on the great American boulderer John Gill, and the Himalayan mountaineering twins from Yorkshire Alan and Adrian Burgess. Life in small tents, on mountains in general, and in bars where mountaineers hang out is discussed in a frank, though humorous manner, leaving the non mountaineering under no illusion about what mountaineers get up to. A couple of chapters relate to activities that some mountaineers aspire to.

This is an excellent paperback, an easy read for a tramp, with some wonderful stories. I look forward to Krakauer's next book.

TRIP REPORTS

PART II - THE CENTAUR PEAKS

by Peter Wiles

[Continuation from last month's report on Rees Valley trip, 15-26 January]

The Centaur Peaks consist of three summits averaging 2500 m located in an east-west line on the eastern side of the Rees Valley. The western most peak forms part of the dividing ridge between the Rees and the the Shotover watersheds, and the other two are located entirely in the Shotover catchment. The eastern peak is the highest. They are not in the national park and are seldom visited. Access is via climbing up the slopes of the eastern side of the Rees valley behind 25 Mile Creek hut and entering the hanging valley of Little Devil Creek and continuing up the creek to its source the slopes of western Centaur Peak.

On Friday morning we headed up grassy slopes directly above our campsite. After avoiding some manuka via a cut farm track we headed up steep grassy slopes on odd sections of sheep tracks for about 250 m before the gradient began to ease. Fortunately the day was cloudy and we appreciated the cooler conditions for the climb. Still, we intended to climb 1000 m for the day so we still had some work to do. At about 1100 m (500 m of the climb) we entered the valley of Little Devil Creek. None of us had been up this creek so we did not know what the travel was like apart from what was gleaned from the map. We need not have been too concerned as travel was straight forward over grassy slopes on the south side for the most part. We reached our prospective campsite at about 1400 m early in the afternoon, and then did some reconnaissance 2-3 km further up the valley. We confirmed that our site was the best spot. As the day elapsed, the cloud slowly lifted and began to clear, but there was a cold easterly wind down the valley that make us wish the sun was out.

The night was cold and it was not a huge surprise in the morning to awake to a good frost and cloudless skies. We headed up the valley which rapidly turns to rocky screes and then moraine. We seemed gain distance and height rapidly and despite the cold conditions we wanted to climb as much as we could before the sun came over the ridge and started to burn down on us. At 2100 m or so, we reached the rocky slopes that rise a further 50-70 m to the ridge crest. Here we struck a problem, the bedding planes of the schist in

these parts run north-south and are tilted upwards about 40E, this makes rock climbing very difficult, but in addition the rock was some of the most shattered that we had encountered anywhere. All but Graham back tracked off our first attempt to find a route onto the ridge crest. However, we found a scree slope (to the rescue) that avoided the rock problems and we stood over looking the headwaters of the Shotover. The Shotover side of the ridge was for the most part a drop of 70-80E and a drop of 50-100 m. Graham found a route that took us via some ledges down on easy slopes on the Shotover side. We climbed up screes and the odd snow patch to reach a col between the western two Centaur Peaks at about 2400 m. It was nearly lunchtime. The map suggested that a sidle round the south side of the middle peak should than provide us with easy scrambling onto the eastern high peak. It was not to be. Certainly the eastern high summit was a beautiful symmetrical pyramid of rock but it was obvious that the tilting of the bedding angle of the rock meant that we were looking at 45E, or so, sloping slabs. There was the possibility of exploring further to the east around the back, but we could not see this and the consensus was not to bother. Instead we felt inclined to see if we could climb the middle summit (the lowest). Again sloping slab problems suggested initially that even this might frustrate us. However, a diagonal fracture line 150-250 mm wide gave us a way through the slab problems and without any great problem (apart from the heat) we all sat on the summit for a photo or two. The descent back to our camp was uneventful apart from numerous stops for photos and drinks and snacks. The descent seemed far longer than the ascent. Back at the camp we now faced the opposite problem of the previous evening - heat and a lack of shade. The tent was like a furnace.

Monday morning was another cloudless day with an initial touch of frost in the air. We left at our usual starting time of about 8 am and leisurely headed down the valley back to the Rees. Once above the Rees valley we sidled southwards to avoid the swampy track alongside the river. We had lunch under the shade of a clump of beech trees and reached the car early in the afternoon. After checking out with DOC and an ice-cream at Glenorchy we headed for the Queenstown motor camp. Once we had transformed ourselves into a more presentable form we walked into town. After a beer at the Irish pub, we enjoyed dinner at

a restaurant with a view overlooking the waterfront.

Next morning we left Queenstown for the long return home. At Cromwell we stocked up on cheap apricots and cherries and then tucked in! We had morning tea at the Lindis pass, lunch at Fairely, dinner at Cheviot and spent the night at the Goose Bay motor camp, just south of Kaikoura. Off again in the morning, with a stop at Nigel's dad's at Blenheim for morning tea and then a smooth ferry crossing.

Great trip! Team: Graham Peters and Janet Wilson, Nigel Scott and Peter Wiles

WAITEWAEWAE HUT

6-7 February by Neil Campbell

We left PN at 8am and reached the road end at Otaki Forks by about 9.30am. There were plenty of people tramping in this area but nobody else heading off to Waitewaewae Hut and we ended up having the hut to ourselves. The track is in reasonable condition. This is a walk that is a good choice in warm and dry summer conditions. Most of the walk is shaded by trees and at times the track consists of a creek/creek bed.

The hut is situated on the Otaki River. We reached it at about 2.20pm. It is a very comfortable hut and a very nice spot for swimming. The mosquitoes were there but they were not too bad.

Thanks to Peter Burgess for leading a very pleasant walk. We were: Peter Burgess and Neil Campbell.

BLUE RANGE / WAINGAWA / ARETE FORKS HUT

Feb 13-14 by John Barnett

I was the newcomer and wondering 'what the others would be like' and 'would I be able to keep up?'

Four of us met at Foodtown, too close to the dot of 7.00am for my comfort. Punctual people could be fanatics, hard to keep up with. Introductions were made: Warren Wheeler, Warren Soufflot and trip-leader Peter Darragh. A battered white van was the trip vehicle and who was to sit in the front seemed determined by whether your name was Warren. Behind the driver's seat was a prominent

sign inviting those sitting behind to fondle those in front. These Warrens were beginning to be a bit of a worry! So too was the van. "All for four hundred dollars", Warren S. declared as he swerved at high speed between two sets of early-morning walkers, accelerating to gather speed for the ascent of Summerhill Drive. Every hill was obviously a challenge to this Warren as he switched from LPG to petrol to maintain his momentum. Probably the same on foot I thought. Rattles made conversation virtually impossible until we were invited to remove the offending curtain rail. No wonder this van was stripped to the bare essentials; the policy was obvious: if it rattles remove it.

We parked at Kiriwhakapapa. In less than a minute we were retracing our footprints back across the footbridge. Wrong way. Hardly reassuring for this newcomer. Especially as I had just worked out that the 'Warren', who at club night had been teased for thinking the red end of a compass pointed South on Mt. Aspiring, was now in the lead. The track rose steeply up the Blue Range. We were dripping with sweat. It was hot sunny and still weather and we were thankful for the shade of the trees. Peter, who was not feeling his best, snarled at me "You're fit, you bastard". A Moro Bar couldn't have given me more energy than those words. So far so good, but I couldn't help noticing that Warren W. was not even breathing hard. Meanwhile Warren S. was switching from his internal reserves to the camel pack on his back, echoing his earlier ascent of Summerhill Drive.

We detoured to visit the Blue Range Hut. Warren S's new year's resolution is to visit every hut in the Tararua's during 1999. I think his wife suggested it in order to see less of him. The top of the Blue range is a cool Tolkein-like wonderland of moss-laden trees. Soon we were descending to Cow Saddle where we rested before the climb up to Waingawa. By now the sun was higher and once again we were pouring out sweat; faster it became apparent later, than we were replacing it. In the shade of the last trees, we applied sunscreen and stepped out into desert-like temperatures.

By the time we reached the summit of Waingawa, 1423 metres, we had dropped earlier ideas of going further to Bannister. This newcomer was delighted to find that these PNTMC members were as equally at ease as I was with abandoning

earlier overly-ambitious plans in favour of frequent rests, lying in the tussock and soaking up the atmosphere of being in the hills! Alpine flowers were in abundance. Warren, with what I hope is regular Presidential benevolence, produced a water melon which was hungrily sucked on. Views of Tam Ridge hut, Arete Biv, Table Ridge, Mitre, Dundas, Cattle Ridge and beyond, together with those out over Masterton and the Wairarapa were reward in plenty for the steep climb.

The descent down the ridge to Arete Forks Hut turned out to be one of those epics that add spice to the memories of a trip. I was introduced to Leatherwood. Its existence being a clear indication that in general PNTMC members must be a Godless lot needing punishing. Warren S. showed us his technique for it which was to lie sideways on top of the canopy and roll downhill. Whether this technique was born of prior experience or his increasingly dehydrated state was something I never established. That Warren S. was suffering became apparent when he announced he wanted a rest and that it would be "here and now". It was the most unilaterally-decided, unappealing rest stop of the trip. We each cowered from the sun among flax and scrub, unable to see either each other or a view. With body temperatures slightly lowered we moved on once more, gaining the easier going of the trees. We slid down through these until we reached the stream where Warren W. and I drank, bathed and then wondered where the others were. They had been just behind. It transpired that Warren S. had become so dehydrated that he got dizzy and had had to lie down - only ten metres from the water he craved! After about ten minutes they joined us and all was well.

At Arete Forks hut we cooked tea in the cool darkness outside the hut door. On Sunday we rose around 9 am and breakfasted. There was no such niceties as democracy in our group and Warren W. voted for all that the riverbed track was how we were going out and not the sidle track. It was foot-jarring in the creek but refreshingly cool. And then it was the steep climb up the Blue Range again, a time for Warren W to come out with that most ancient of tramping lies,

"it looks like it levels off up ahead". Then we descended down to Kiriwhakapapa where Warren S. demonstrated his rehydrated form by running the last few hundred metres to the van.

In perfect weather we had covered four different types of terrain. Thick forest, open tops, Leatherwood-bashing and river-bed travel. All this in the hot sun, a cloudless weekend, no mud, no wind and clear views. It was the perfect introduction for this newcomer to the district. Just the usual Tararua conditions I shall expect while we live here!

SEARCH METHODS TRAINING WEEKEND 27-28 February by Warren Soufflot

I arrived at the Makahika Outdoor Centre (behind Levin) about 7.30am on Saturday to a friendly greeting of "would you like some breakfast". If the rest of the weekend was this relaxed I might enjoy it.

8am rolled around and we were into it. I was a bit lost at first, having done only 1 S.A.R.E.X. but I latched onto all the flash lingo after a while. Due to bad weather we learnt the theory and went out into the forest and scrub when the weather allowed us to. Most of the outside exercises were like a big game of 'hide 'n' seek' using various methods to detect missing persons. Blackberry patches became popular hiding places so one could indulge in a wee snack while waiting to be found. After a roast tea it was outside for a night exercise with about 16 people being lost over an area of about 1 square km and only 6 searchers. It took about $\frac{3}{4}$ hr to find everyone, which showed us how effective a properly organised search could be.

Sunday was another indoor/outdoor day, which was spent fine tuning various methods and eating jam scones with whipped cream.

By the end of the course we were able to explain key search concepts, explain components of lost person behaviour, and explain and demonstrate a range of search methods. An enjoyable weekend was had, and the food was great.

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
Newsletter Editor	: John Phillips	357-9009 (work)
deliver articles/disks to:	87 Victoria Avenue, P.N.	358-1874 (home)
e-mail articles to:	john.phillips@mwrc.govt.nz	
Trip Co-ordinators	: Terry Crippen	356-3588
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