



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING  
& MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (INC)  
P.O. Box 1217 Palmerston North

## NEWSLETTER

4/77

Hon. Secretary,  
Janet Maesson, 73-524  
Membership Enquiries  
John Williams, 84-925.

### Subscriptions for the year ending 28<sup>th</sup> February, 1978

Notice is hereby given that subscriptions for the current financial year are now due. By resolution of the A.G.M. subs were set as

follow:

Junior (still at school)	\$4.00
Senior	\$6.00
Family (one newsletter only)	\$7.00

Prompt payment of subs allows the Club to accurately estimate its income and therefore budget for the coming year. Also it saves our Treasurer unnecessary work sending out personal accounts. If you don't wish to renew your sub please notify the Secretary.

### COMING EVENTS

#### 28<sup>th</sup> April CLUB NIGHT

##### Margrain and Williams Present:

"A long and arduous transalpine expedition among New Zealand's highest mountains."

The early summer of 1976/77 was noted for its bad weather. In spite of the difficulties this presented, two of our members managed to complete an arduous tramping/climbing trip which took them over 5 difficult alpine passes and which included a climb of New Zealand's second highest mountain. These events will be described.

At the Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, Palmerston North at 7.30 p.m.

SUPPER DUTIES: Janet Maesson, Bram Hoare, John Ogilvy.

#### 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April 1<sup>st</sup> May LEVIN-WAIOPEHU TRAMPING CLUB GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Contact the Secretary for details. See also "Notices" below.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May ROCK CLIMBING INSTRUCTION

This trip is especially for novices although everyone is welcome. We will be climbing at Titahi Bay and Baring Head, both near Wellington. Bring plenty of soft drink as climbing is thirsty work and there is no fresh water. If you only want a day trip discuss it with the leader.

Leader:	Kevin Pearce, phone 83-467
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	About \$5
Depart Supersave:	8.00 a.m. Saturday.

7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May ROARING STAG LODGE – RUAMAHANGA RIVER

A trip to the Eastern Tararuas near Eketahuna. (The hut is also known as Squeaking Mouse Lodge.)

Leader: John Williams, phone 84-925  
Grading: Fit  
Cost: About \$3.  
Depart Supersave: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

8<sup>th</sup> May ROARING STAG LODGE

A fairly easy "Medium" trip.

Leader: John Williams, phone 84-925  
Grading: Medium  
Cost: About \$2.50  
Depart Supersave: 6.00 a.m. Sunday.

12<sup>th</sup> May COMMITTEE MEETING

At John Carter's, 3 Dorset Crescent, P.N. beginning at 7.30 p.m.

14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May SAWTOOTH RIDGE

This is an Eastern Ruahine trip. The ridge is said to resemble a saw hence its name. Bring storm gear and sunburn cream.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, phone 68-644  
Grading: Fitness Essential  
Cost: Approximately \$4.00  
Depart Supersave: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> HINERUA HUT

This trip will share transport with the one above and will cater for those not of F.E. standard.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, phone 68-644  
Grading: Fitness Essential  
Cost: Approximately \$4.00  
Depart Supersave: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> May VISIT BY F.M.C. LIAISON OFFICER

On one of the above dates the Federated Mountain Club's Liaison Officer, Dr. Fred Gallas, will address a meeting of Clubs and interested persons here in Palmerston North. F.M.C. is the national organization for tramping clubs and it looks after our interests at a national level, particularly in the fields of conservation, search and rescue, management of the mountain areas and legal access. (Refer to the F.M.C. bulletin No. 51, April, 1976 for details.) Dr. Gallas will be telling us of F.M.C. work and will be learning of our local problems and concerns.

For details of where and when the meeting will be held, ring:

Trevor Bissell, phone 68-644  
Or Kevin Pearce " 83-467

21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May HOLDSWORTH – MITRE

A classic Tararua tops traverse including the Range's highest peak. Storm gear essential.

Leader: Peter Darragh, phone Fg. 5633  
Grading: F.E.  
Cost: Roughly about \$4.00  
Depart Supersave: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May MITRE FLATS

This trip includes the possibility of an ascent of Mitre Peak, the Tararua's highest, for the fitter members of the party.

Leader: Peter Darragh, phone Fg. 5633  
Grading: F.E.  
Cost: Approx. \$4.00  
Depart Supersave: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

26<sup>th</sup> May CLUB NIGHT – ANNUAL SLIDE AND PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Full details will be given in the next newsletter but start thinking about this now. All slides must have a tramping or mountaineering flavour and must not have been previously entered in a P.N.T.M.C. competition. A small entry fee is charged per slide to provide cash prizes for the winners.

28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May PURITY HUT – KELLY NIGHT CAMPSITE

A little north of our own Rangī lies a pleasant valley. John will be leading us there.

Leader:	John Carter, phone 74-344
Grading:	Medium
Cost:	About \$3.00
Depart Supersave	6.00 a.m. Saturday

29<sup>th</sup> May PURITY HUT

Leader:	John Carter, phone 74-344
Grading:	Medium
Cost:	About \$3.00
Depart Supersave	6.00 a.m. Sunday

NOTICES

1. NEW CLUB OFFICERS

The recent Annual General Meeting elected the following:

Patron:	Mr. Lawson Pither.
President:	Trevor Bissell, phone 68-644 (Conservation)
Vice President:	Peter Croad, phone 69-386 (Librarian)
Secretary:	Janet Maesson, phone 73-421
Treasurer:	Keith Margrain, phone 79-303
Committee:	John Carter phone 74-344 (Social Convenor) Heather Crabb phone 77-668 (Typist, S.A.R.) Peter Darragh ph. Fg. 5633 (Coming Trips) Kevin Pearce ph. 83-467 (Newsletter Editor, S.A.R.) John Williams ph. 84-925 (Gear Custodian, New Members, S.A.R.)
Auditor:	Mr. Lawson Pither.

2. NEW MEMBERS

Philip Budding,	phone	85-936
Anne Flux	“	80-319

Are welcomed to the Club.

3. ACCOUNTS OF PAST ACTIVITIES

Kevin Pearce is now the Editor of the Newsletter and he is very tough on Leaders who don't submit accounts of trips. These need not be long, one paragraph is adequate. Please hand your trip accounts to Kevin at Club Night or post or deliver to 22 Pahiatua Street. The deadline for the newsletter is Committee Meeting night.

4. LEVIN-WAIPehu TRAMPING CLUB'S JUBILEE

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to the above club on the occasion of their jubilee.

5. LITTER CONTROL

One major Wellington Tramping Club has a compulsory "if you pack it in, pack it out" policy for all its trips. A resolution was passed at it's A.G.M prohibiting its members from leaving tin cans, plastic bags or aluminium foil in the mountains, even, where rubbish holes are provided.

6. ITEMS FOR SALE

The Club's own song book "Trudge" \$1.25.  
"Food For Trampers" Six pages of recipes and menus 10c.

Maps covering various areas.

Lands & Survey Instruction Booklet "Topographical Maps and Route Finding" 50c.

All the above are available at Club Nights.

#### 7. VOLUNTEERS FOR SEARCH & RESCUE

Russ Johnson (phone 87-777) is at present revising his list of volunteers. If you would like to be on his list or if you think your name is already on his list but have recently changed phone numbers or are no longer available, please ring Russ.

#### PAST TRIPS

##### EASTER 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April GIRDLESTONE SADDLE – THE TRIP THAT NEVER WAS

The trip that started out and actually got finished, or how to have an alternative plan. Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> saw a hastily arranged party of four leave the road end at the Pipe Bridge at Ohau for the proposed trip to Girdlestone Saddle and Avalanche Flats. Good going, in reasonable weather saw the party arrive at South Ohau hut at 12.30 when for some quite unexplainable reason, the heavens opened for a short period. As it was necessary to return via the same route on Monday because of transport arrangements, it was decided to give the Girdlestone Saddle/Avalanche Flats portion "the go-by" and to travel to Te Matawai Hut instead. This gave us a head start on Monday in case we had to use the high level route out. But this was not to be either!! One of the party members found that the sole of his boot had come apart from the upper for about one third of the stitching. So after only quarter of an hour of climbing it was back down to South Ohau Hut. The billy was boiled again; many visitors passed through from Te Matawai on the way out. The P.N.T.M.C. party shared the hut with two deer stalkers who were having as much luck getting deer as our party was in making forward progress. Late afternoon saw us joined by a party of three from Wellington – unfortunately, a qualified electrician is not much good at either getting the lights going in the hut or in repairing boots.

Monday was an uneventful, but at times, wet trip out and a meeting at the road end on time for transport. Three of the more hardy (or was it foolhardy) members of the party tried the high dive into the river from the Pipe Bridge – that is one way to get the mud off.

Party members – Bruce Parker (Leader), John Stretton, Craig Baird and Allan Parker.

##### EASTER WEEKEND – AROUND EGMONT

We eventually arrived at Dawson Falls at 11.30 a.m. on Good Friday after an uneventful trip and there we split into two groups of six with one party led by myself (John) going around the mountain and the other led by Peter Darragh, going to tramp in the Pouakai Ranges.

The "around the mountain" trip started in good weather and we would have liked to camp by a river or stream but unfortunately we found no suitable campsite so we were forced to press on and finally arrived at Holly Hut at 6.30 p.m. just as it was getting dark. The hut was full (several times over) and even camping space outside was at a premium but eventually we managed to erect our fly before having a meal and then retiring to our pads.

By Saturday morning the clouds had started to build with rain in the air so after a lightning visit by the Darragh party, we wasted no time in setting off to the Kahui Hut where we made a brew and had lunch. We pressed on once more and at 3.30 p.m. came upon the first decent campsite of our journey which turned out to be only 5 minutes away from Oaonui Hut and over population.

After setting up camp by the river we cooked our sausages and stew over the campfire followed by peaches, instant pudding and toasted marshmallows (Anne's special treat) before retiring.

We had just finished breaking camp when the rain started (and never to stop) so we wasted no time in pushing on hoping to reach Dawson Falls that night, if we made good time (Ha, Ha) and then perhaps climbing to the summit on Monday when the weather cleared (Ha, Ha, Ha.)

About an hour up from Brames Falls, one of our party developed a severe asthmatic attack and possible exposure. A nurse arrived on the scene ten minutes later and we decided we had better pop the patient into his sleeping bag to keep him warm. We then decided we had better get him down the mountain as soon as possible, so Don and Kent took off at a fast pace to arrange transport from Ihaia Rd. They contacted the local Ranger and in an incredibly short space of time 9 members of the local Search and Rescue Team were storming up the mountain as we were making our way down. The speed and help extended by the S.A.R. people was tremendous and transport was laid on by the local traffic officer while the police arranged a doctor. After an examination and minor medication to the patient our next problem was accommodation and we finally found shelter at the Stratford Mountain House day shelter where we made ourselves comfortable. The appalling weather and all night rain made us glad to be off the mountain.

Although the weekend was not a total success, I think we all learned a lot from our experiences and I would like to commend the members of my party for the unselfish way in which they absorbed the extra load imposed by our ailing companion and for not complaining once. Thanks.

Those in the party were: John Carter, Kent Horsfield, Colin Hoare, Anne Flux, Don Scott and Chris Croad.

THE TRAMPERS' MARATHON, 1977

This annual event is held in the Rimutaka Forest Park east of Wellington Harbour. The course of 9 miles includes muddy undulating bush track, gravel river bed and a 1,000 foot climb. The race is run on the basis of a staggered handicapped start, the handicap being calculated on the basis of age, recent tramping activity and previous times in the Marathon. Minimum age for competitors is 20 years and the rules require competitors to wear boots weighing not less than 4 lbs.

Recently (February 19<sup>th</sup>) Trevor Bissell and Kevin Pearce represented the Club in this event, Trevor running for the third time and Kevin in his second race. Sixty persons finished the race partial results for which are given below. Places are given both for time and for handicapped position.

Time	Handc'd.	Time	Name	Club
1 <sup>st</sup>	26	1 hr. 20 min. 48 s	T. Gazley	W.T.M.C.
2	6	1 " 24 " 18 "	A. Harris	H.V.T.C.
3	23	1 " 25 " 38 "	B. Hunt	W.T.M.C.
11	19	1 " 30 " 04 "	T. Bissell	P.N.T.M.C.
15	3	1 " 34 " 05 "	T. Schmetzer	W.C.T.C.
21	1	1 " 38 " 21 "	J. Tristram	H.V.T.C.
28	21	1 " 41 " 01 "	K. Pearce	P.N.T.M.C.
29	2	1 " 41 " 54 "	R. Lander	W.C.T.C./ P.N.T.M.C.

The last person to come in took 2 hr. 43 min. The record for the course is 1 hr. 12 min. 9 sec. established in 1975 by D. O'Connell. Trevor's previous times were 1 hr. 41 min. 37 se. (1975) and 1 hr. 34 min. 29 sec. (1976). Kevin's previous time was 1 hr. 47 min. 29 sec. (1975).

OVERDUE TRAMPING TRIPS

From time to time Club parties have been late returning from trips. Generally the reason for the late return has been trivial as far as the safety and welfare of the overdue party is concerned – breakdowns, punctures, temporary loss of route, floods etc. Nevertheless parents and spouses worry over the non-return of loved ones. To avoid the embarrassment of not knowing who has gone on some particular trip the Club has made arrangements with the Police for trips leaders to leave a list of names and phone numbers of the trip members at the Police Station in Church Street immediately before the trip leaves. It is important that the list contains the name and phone number of a responsible Club Official for the Police to contact, after a certain stated time, should the list not be collected. Also important, the Club Official should first be advised before his name is used (who wants to be rung up in the middle of the night about a trip you know nothing about?)

Do not forget to call at or to phone the Police Station upon your return. If you are seriously delayed for any reason, contact the Club Official on your list as soon as possible. Alternatively contact the parent of one of the party members and have the message relayed to all the relatives involved and also to the Club Official.

Finally, detach and give the following phone numbers (at the bottom of the page) to your parents, wife, husband or flat mates, as appropriate, to be fastened to the telephone book.

STOP PRESS

The F.M.C. Meeting will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May in the Deerstalkers' Hall, College St., Palm. Nth. commencing at 8.00 p.m.

Palmerston North Tramping & Mountaineering Club

For enquiries concerning seriously overdue tramping parties please telephone:

Kevin Pearce	83-467
or John Williams	84-925
or Russell Johnson	87-777