



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

NEWSLETTER 4/78

Newsletter Editor: Gill Davies 79-733
Gear Custodian: Peter Croad 69-386
Enquiries Concerning Overdue Trips: Kevin Pearce, 83-467
John Williams, 84-925
Russ Johnson, 87-777

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RESULTS OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Patron: Lawson Pither
President: Kevin Pearce, 83-467 (temporary.)
Vice President: Peter Croad, 69-386
Secretary: Trevor Bissell, 73-543
Treasurer: Ian Hoare, 67-743
Committee: Heather Crabb, 77-668, Gill Davies, 79-733,
Janet Maesson, 69-386, Stephen Moore,
Brad Owen, 83-467, Tim Short, 75-038,
John Williams, 84-925.
Auditor: Lawson Pither.

PORTFOLIOS

Social Convenor: Kevin Pearce, 83-467
Gear Custodian: Peter Croad, 69-386
Newsletter Editor: Gill Davies, 79-733
Membership & Newsletter Distribution: John Williams, 84-925
Librarian & Photo Album Keeper: Janet Maesson, 69-386
Conservation Convenor: Brad Owen, 83-467
Typist: Heather Crabb, 77-668
Trip Convenor: Kevin Pearce, 83-467
Search & Rescue Sub-Committee: Kevin Pearce, Brad Owen,
John Williams, Russ Johnson.
Overdue trip enquiries: John Williams, Russ Johnson, Kevin Pearce
SAR Callout contacts: Kevin Pearce, Heather Crabb, Russ Johnson.
Newsletter Printer: Tim Short.
Supper arrangements: Heather Crabb.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Juniors: \$5.00
Seniors: \$7.00
Family: \$8.00

Reduced by one dollar if paid before 26th May, 1978. If membership wanted to be discontinued contact Trevor Bissell (secretary.)

TRIP SCHEDULE

At present being drawn up; any particular places people want to go to please contact Kevin Pearce (President) ph 83-467. .../2

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Gary Thomas, 53 Lyndhurst St., ph. 81-858
and Allan Dunn, 21 Coventry St., ph. 80-249.

COMING EVENTS

21st – 23rd April SOUTHERN CROSSING

One of the "classic" Tararua trip from Otaki Forks to Kaitoke. Storm gear and a good torch are essential. Maps: N 157 and N161.

Leader: Kevin Pearce, ph. 83-467
Grading: F.E.
Cost: \$6.00
Depart Supersave Car Park, Ferguson St., 6.30 p.m. Friday night.

22nd – 23rd April TAUHERENIKAU VALLEY

A pleasant valley in the Southern Tararuas. Come equipped for camping. Map: NZMS 1, N161.

Names to: Kevin Pearce, ph. 83-467
Grading: Medium
Cost: \$4.00
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

27th April CLUB NIGHT

"Back door entrance to the Mt. Aspiring National Park."

Trevor will describe his Southland trips.

Remember to bring your subs.

SUPPER DUTIES: Tim Short, John Ogilvy, Helen Pennington.

29th – 30th April RUAPEHU

Something for everyone – both climbing and tramping. Maps NZMS1/N122 or NZMS 273.

Names to: Trevor Bissell, ph. 73-543
Grading: Easy & Fit
Cost: \$4.00 - \$6.00 depending on hut fees.
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

4th May COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30 p.m. at Trevor Bissell's, 28 Carroll St. P.N.

6th – 7th May ROCK CLIMBING INSTRUCTION COURSE AT TITAHI BAY

The first of the winter Alpine instruction courses, to be held on the sea cliffs near Titahi Bay. Suitable for novices. Bring plenty to drink as there is no fresh water and climbing is thirsty work.

Names to: Kevin Pearce, ph. 83-467
Grading: Easy
Cost: \$3.00
Depart: 8.00 a.m. Saturday.

NOTICES

Accommodation Available

Kevin Pearce has recently purchased a three bedroom house and is seeking congenial house mates. He would prefer tramping types, over 20 years of age who don't smoke and would be willing to live in a cooperative style household. Kevin takes possession of his house in May. Rent will be negotiable and reasonable. The house is in Tern Place. Phone 83-467.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Four Club members took part in the Woodger search in the Mangahao catchment.

CAROL NASH'S address is 80 Lonsdale St., Mornington, Dunedin. Carol sends her love to all!

12th – 14th May RANGI – HOWLETTS CROSSING

One of the more interesting Ruahine Crossings beginning at our own Club hut "Rangi". Torch and storm gear are essential. Map: NZMS 1 N140.

Leader:	Trevor Bissell, ph. 73-543
Grading:	F.E.
Cost:	\$6.00
Depart:	6.30 p.m. Friday night Supersave, Ferguson St. Car Park.

13th – 14th May TUKITUKI RIVER

An Eastern Ruahine trip designed to meet up with the Crossing party. Map NZMS 1 N140.

Names to:	Trevor Bissell, ph. 73-543
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	\$3.50
Depart:	6.00 a.m. Saturday.

20th – 21st May COPPERMINE

A very easy trip to explore the coppermine site near Woodville with an especially designed late start to suit those who like to sleep in. Map: none suitable.

Leader:	Colin Elliot, ph. 73-543
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	\$1.00
Depart:	2 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

21st May WHARITE – COPPERMINE

A splendid view can be had in fine weather from this, the source of all blessing, the T.V. translator site. Bring longs to cope with the indigenous flora.

Names to:	Colin Elliot, ph. 73-543
Grading:	Fit
Cost:	\$1.00
Depart:	7.00 a.m. Sunday.

25th May ANNUAL SLIDE COMPETITION

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

Details at the end of Newsletter.

26th – 28th May CAVING TRIP TO WAITOMO

It's a long way to go but last time the Club went there we really enjoyed it. Bring lots of old woolen clothing, torch, boots and if you have it, overalls and a carbide lamp.

Leader:	Grant Ramsey, 75-365 before 19 th May.
Grading:	Various
Cost:	(Hut fees and transport) \$10 - \$16.
Depart:	5.15 p.m. Friday
Return:	Very late Sunday.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Newsletter preparation is one of the largest jobs the committee undertakes for your information on coming trips, notices and entertainment in the form of trip reports.

As the Newsletter passes through the hands of firstly the Editor, who collates and edits the material which takes considerable time, then the typist, printer and membership convenor who has a sizeable job of wrapping and preparing them for posting, before they arrive in your mail box, the Editor would appreciate your cooperation in handing her copy for the Newsletter two weeks at the latest before the monthly Club Night. This will ensure that your contribution is included in the current Newsletter.

GRAHAM HART

Has been injured in a motorcycle accident near Kaikoura and is at present (April 7th) in the Kaikoura Public Hospital. Letters and visitors would be appreciated.

MEETING

Members are invited to the monthly meeting of the N.Z. Deerstalkers' Association on 26th April at 8.30 p.m. when Mr. Faulkner of Faulkner's Footwear will speak on Tramping Boots. Small door charge to cover supper etc.

ST JOHN'S FIRST AID COURSE

Every Tuesday from May 23rd for five weeks, 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. at the Chalet. Professional instruction especially for trampers, canoeists, search and rescue personnel.

Cost \$6.60 includes book. At least sixteen people needed for course to start. Please give Russell Johnson names by Wednesday, 3rd May, phone 87-777.

PAST EVENTS

TRAMPERS' MARATHON 18th February, 1978

This is an annual event organized by the Tararua Tramping Club and it is held in the Rimutaka Ranges east of Wellington Harbour. A good contingent from our Club attended – enough for us to enter a team of four plus two spares and some spectator – supporters as well. The Marathon is restricted to those over 20 years of age and all competitors must wear boots weighing not less than four pounds the pair. The race features a staggered handicap start, the handicap being decided on the basis of past performance, age, recent tramping experience etc.

Partial results for the Marathon are given below with both the position past the finishing post and the position on the basis of time being given. The record for the course is 72 min. 9 sec.

Time	Past		Club	Time
1 st	23 rd	J. Swadling	T.T.C.	79 min. 34 sec.
2	4	G. Stotter	T.T.C.	81 11
3	13	B. Hunt	W.T.M.C.	83 33
4	1	P. Thorn	T.T.C.	84 07
7	3	T. Clarkson	H.V.T.C.	88 28
13	28	<u>T. Bissell</u>	P.N.T.M.C.	92 43
26	2	<u>W. Thorburn</u>	W.T.M.C.	100 53
36	38	<u>T. Short</u>	P.N.T.M.C.	112 57
39	41	<u>K. Pearce</u>	P.N.T.M.C.	115 38
40	47	<u>P. Darragh</u>	P.N.T.M.C.	117 30
43	43	<u>P. Croad</u>	P.N.T.M.C.	121 44
50	50	<u>C. Hoare</u>	P.N.T.M.C.	146 13

TEAM SCORES

T.T.C.	33 points	1 st
H.V.T.C.	39 points	2 nd
W.T.M.C.	45	3 rd
W.C.T.C.	49	
Police T.C.	58	
P.N.T.M.C.	150	

PAST PERFORMANCE BY CLUB MEMBERS

1975	20 th , 22 nd =	T. Bissell	101 min.	37 sec.
	25 th , 30 th	K. Pearce	107	29
1976	12 th , 13 th	T. Bissell	94	29
1977	11 th , 19 th	T. Bissell	90	04
	28 th , 21 st	K. Pearce	101	01

All participants must be congratulated on their participation and on their finishing the course.

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realistic handicap next year.

DAY TRIP OROUA RIVER, SUNDAY 26th February.

It was a fine and slightly overcast day, almost ideal conditions for an easy day trip. We left fairly well on time from Palmerston North and picked up three more keen trampers at Peter's place in Feilding. On arriving at our starting point at the end of Patterson's Road we found that many other people thought the Oroua River was a great place to be, as there were "millions" of cars there already.

Undaunted by the crowds the 13 of us set off (all beautifully booted) towards Heritage Lodge. This is where the first major rest occurred, breakfast was caught up on, log book signed and a suitable amount of cheek was thrown about by our reluctant leader (MAN FROM ATLANTIS.)

"Right then," he says, and led us into what looked like an ablution pit, but it really was the track to the river.

We took off up the river, in the river, over the river, through the river and beside the river. Peter displayed his amazing strength and prowess at all times, this enabled Ross to keep his feet dry for some time through being Piggy-backed when he thought it might be too deep for him.

We lunched in great style at the Tunupo Campsite. What a social occasion! We met members of the Manawatu Club, the Marton Tramping Club, two or three family groups, and we had already said our hellos to the Deerstalkers' Club on the way in. After much ceremony in the boiling of the billy etc. we set off down the river to Iron Gates Gorge. By now the sun was shining and fun was the number one order of the day. Peter and Ross had their fun? by swimming down and up Iron Gates Gorge. We had ours by watching them and cooling off in the rock pools. After sunbathing and afternoon tea we set out to conquer the Mighty Umutoi (Creek.) Huge trees and rocks blocked our way but we battled bravely on until a waterfall finally made us take to the hills. Liz showed us how easily this could be done by almost running to the top. It looked easy! So we climbed to the top of the hill which was to the side of the waterfall. This proved to be rather a hazardous climb but everyone achieved it much to everyone else's relief. After congratulations all round, we walked across the hills back to the cars, satisfied that it had turned out to be an interesting and enjoyable day.

Peter (Atlantis) Darragh was the leader, Kay Nilsen helped to keep him on the right track and Glen Eustace was Chief Tailman. This was Christina McKinder's last tramp here for a while as she is shifting to New Plymouth. Those participating in the trip were: Gary Thomas, Kay Nilson, Christina McKinder, Mike Barber, Eugenie Hunt, Liz Williams; Dawn Ellis, Peter Darragh, Ross Corlett, Susan Cade, Philip Cade, Alan Dun and Glen Eustace.

KAWEKAS – EASTER, 1978

Robin Palmer, Kevin Pearce and Steven Moore participated. The three and one half hours' drive via Taihape to Kuripapango on the Taihape-Napier Road took us through some interesting country without exposing us to bad roads – gravel but good by tramping standards. On Friday we climbed from the river gauge on the Ngaruroro over Kuripapango Peak to Kiwi Mouth Hut on the Ngaruroro. On Saturday we awoke to a frost and paddled up the river past numerous trout to Rocks Ahead Hut and then climbed up on to Venison Top. The weather was perfect and a great expanse of bush covered hills stretched away to the north and west. The view to the east was of badly eroded hills. On Sunday the weather was again perfect for our traverse of the Main Kaweka range. Monday involved but a short (2 hour) walk out to the road and a drive home via Hastings.

The Kawekas offer some good tramping country in the west while the eastern more accessible parts are much less attractive because of erosion and scrub. Generally the rivers

tend to be steep, bouldery or gorgy and can not always be traversed. A Kaweka – Kaimanawa crossing would make a good short inexpensive Christmas Trip.

THE HEAPHY TRIP, MARCH 1978

23rd. It was the unearthly hour of 2 a.m. when I rendezvoused with a party of four at the Picton Ferry. After picking up Bud and Julie Cade, Don Scott and Gary MacKay we drove to the other side of Nelson before stopping for, a few hours' sleep under the stars. We were up early the next morning as we had to meet a charter plane at Bainham (near Collingwood) at 12 noon. We drove to the airstrip (a paddock with cows) to await our plane which arrived three hours late. It was 4.30 p.m. by the time all five of us were airlifted to Karamea, where we caught a taxi to the Kohaihai Shelter which is the western end of the Heaphy Track. With the day drawing to a close, we decided to camp at Scott's Beach which proved to be a mistake because by 9.00 p.m. a storm had started and continued to rage all night. Our fly tents were of little use in keeping out the tempest.

24th. By the time dawn arrived we were very bedraggled so in driving rain we packed up our soaked gear and sand before proceeding to our first mishap of the trip. We were crossing a small stream where it traversed the beach and then within seconds the volume of water increased a thousand fold. Julie and Gary ran for their lives to join Bud in safety but I was caught in the main flow of the torrent and knocked off my feet and almost out to sea. With considerable effort I crawled on all fours to safety. We learnt afterwards that the release of a large volume of water down a riverbed is a common occurrence after long period of dry weather because the beds get choked up with branches etc. resulting in a dam effect which eventually gives way. After spending our atrocious night out we were a bit embarrassed to pass a hut two minutes from our campsite. After breakfast at the Mid Point shelter we tramped on through overcast skies and drizzle which spoiled the effect of the renowned nikau trees on the Heaphy coast. We reached the Heaphy Hut in time for lunch and as the sun showed we proceeded to dry our gear out. Unfortunately, my next mishap occurred which involved a knife, my knee and a fair amount of blood but I must admit to enjoying the attention.

25th. With Don sorry to say good-bye to his new found friend (Dobbin, the local packhorse) we left the hut with myself limping for the sore leg. We moved inland up the Heaphy River enjoying the fine weather and lush bush. The track from Kohaihai to the Upper Heaphy is in excellent order and a credit to the Forest Service. For 6 hours we climbed a gradual incline through the bush and reached the MacKay Hut at 4.00 p.m. Preferring our own company to a full hut we provided entertainment to the hut's inhabitants by taking 2 hours to erect our fly tents. Don and Gary took control and completed the job. Our views from the tent took in the whole valley looking back down the river to the West Coast.

26th. After a lie-in and cooking breakfast in bed we departed at 10:00 a.m. to follow the track through the bush before emerging onto the Goulard Downs with the Perry Saddle in the distance. The weather being changeable we opted for the Downs Hut after exploring nearby caves. After a wash in the river (or a bowl of hot water for some) we had dinner fed the wekas and retired to our bunks only to arise to watch Don chase an opossum around outside and up and over the roof of the hut. To the disappointment of all concerned, the opossum escaped into the night.

27th. With steady rain falling, we set off across the Downs and over the Perry Saddle before stopping at the hut for a respite from the weather and a cup of tea with toasted Easter Buns which Julie had kindly carried. Heads down we tramped through the steady rain hardly noticing the exotic bush until we finally

reached the Brown Hut which marks the northern end of the track. With the charter planes grounded with the weather, there were many people waiting to fly back to Karamea. Sleeping room was at a premium and fifteen people shared one large bunk making it very chummy.

28th. With steady rain falling all night most of the people waiting were lucky enough to obtain a four wheeled bus to take them back to Karamea. Unfortunately the bus driver informed us that there was no way (at this point in time) that we would drive our car across the third ford which was in flood. Later in the day all three fords were impassable to any person or vehicle so we resigned ourselves to staying at the hut until the rain subsided. We were fortunate in that there is a phone at the hut so that we could ring relatives/work etc. Unfortunately, we had given all our surplus food away to a Canadian couple at the previous hut so our remaining provisions were sparse, dried salami slices for lunch, Vegemite flavoured T.V.P. for dinner.

29th. Thankfully, overnight the rain had stopped so with Bud's early morning expertise we were up at the crack of dawn to breakfast on stewed sultanas before returning to the car which we had left a week before. After negotiating the ford with no difficulty, we decided to make the most of our extra day off. First on our list was a large meal near Nelson, followed by a look in the local museum and a swim in the pool. For various reasons the Palmerston North residents were obliged to catch the 10.40 p.m. Picton Ferry which meant arriving back in Palmerston about 4.00 a.m. and I returned to Christchurch at the same time.

Footnote:

Apart from the wet weather and some mishaps, possibly the biggest hurdle in walking the Heaphy is the transport problem. The easiest way is to take advantage of the charter plane at \$16 per head and half hour flying time or to have two parties walking the track at the same time and from opposite ends, exchanging keys half way. With the track rising to only 3,000 feet it is in no way arduous, but with 15 km. to walk each day for five days, one has to be reasonably fit. We encountered minor feet trouble caused from sand under the toes.

All in all, for our party, the trip will be a memorable one.

John Carter.

VIV MAWSON is having a great time in England and is shortly to leave Woking for pastures new in Edinburgh to do her midwifery. Having a six week holiday between nursing positions she hopes to go to Glen Nevis and Glencoe for a bit of tramping around.

Her new address will be:

C/- Florence Nightingale West Nurses' Home,
Archibald Place,
Edinburgh EH3 97W.

MINIMUM IMPACT CODE

1. Plan your trip to minimize rubbish, avoid bottles and cans.
2. Pack out what you pack in; carry out all unburnable rubbish.
3. Keep to formed tracks where provided, avoid taking short-cuts or trampling the vegetation alongside a track.
4. Keep party sizes reasonable, large groups create degrading pressures on the environment, particularly at campsites.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RULES

1. The Competition shall be in two parts:
 - (1) Colour slides.
 - (2) Prints (either colour or black and white.)
2. All photographs must have a tramping or mountaineering flavour.
3. There shall be two categories or competition:
 - (1) Novice – a person who has not previously won or been placed in any photographic competition.
 - (2) Advanced – those who have had success in any photographic competition or are members of a photographic or camera club.
4. There shall be three competition classes:
 - (a) Natural history (flora & fauna, geological structures, meteorological phenomenon etc.)
 - (b) People (Portraits or photographs in which people are the dominant interest.)
 - (c) Scenery (Landscape.)
5. All photographs must have been taken by the competition in whose name they are entered.
6. Photographs which have been entered in a previous P.N.T.M.C. competition may not be entered a second time.
7. An entry fee of 10 cents must accompany each and every slide and print entered in the competition. The money collected as entry fees will be used to provide cash prizes for the winners.
8. Entries close for all classes immediately before judging begins (approximately 8.00 p.m.)
9. Photographs may be entered in one class only.
10. The judges decision is final.
11. All slides and prints must bear the competitors name and the class in which it is entered (People, Natural History, or Scenery.)
12. All slides must be marked with a conspicuous spot in the lower left-hand corner when held for hand viewing. (This will ensure they are projected the correct way around.)