



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

NEWSLETTER

9/79

Secretary: Terry Crippen, 86-293  
Membership Enquiries: Colin Hoare, 88-546  
Newsletter Editor: Heather Crabb, 77-668  
Gear Custodian: Nick Bishop, 70-217

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Enquiries Concerning Overdue Trips:

N.B. Work numbers are for emergency use only.  
Kevin Pearce, Home 70-217 Work 74-129  
Russ Johnson, 87-777 78-581  
Heather Crabb, 77-668 77-668

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COMING EVENTS

ALL TRIPS LEAVE THE "SUPERSAVE" CAR PARK, FERGUSON STREET.  
IF YOU WISH TO GO ON A TRIP ADVISE THE LEADER AT LEAST THREE DAYS  
IN ADVANCE.

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27<sup>th</sup> September CLUB NIGHT

With Christmas fast approaching, members will be starting to think of what to do for their Christmas trips. To this end, areas of interest for South Island trips will feature, particularly the region of the proposed Club trip. Speakers will include Mike Rochelle and Terry Crippen.

7.45 p.m. Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms, 227 College St., P.N.

SUPPER DUTIES: Trevor Bissell, Karyn Bishop, Cheryl Brown.

29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September HOROWHENUA SAREX 'HOKIO'

29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September HEREPAI – DUNDAS RIDGE HUT

Since the closure of the Schormann track the NZFS have planned to cut a track onto the Dundas Ridge via Herepai and a hut is also proposed nearby. Neither exist yet but a short bush bash provides access to the Dundas Ridge.

Leader: Terry Crippen, ph. 86-293  
Grading: Fit  
Cost: \$2.00  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September HUAKURA RIDGE

Not often visited by our Club the ridge is a major spur of the Dundas Ridge in the north eastern Tararuas.

Names to: Terry Crippen, ph. 86-293  
Grading: Medium  
Cost: \$2.00  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

4<sup>th</sup> October COMMITTEE MEETING

7.45 p.m. at Chrissie's, 10 Ascott St., Palm. Nth.

5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October SNOWCRAFT III, RUAPEHU

This will give people who already have a good grounding in snowcraft and climbing (at least to Snowcraft II level) the chance to develop their climbing ability. 15 places have been booked at the NZAC hut on Ruapehu. (Note this is now Snowcraft III, not II as originally stated in the trip schedule). Certain minimum climbing gear will be required.

Leader:	Terry Crippen, ph. 86-293
Grading:	Fit
Cost:	\$5.00 transport plus \$4.00 accommodation.
Depart:	6.30 p.m. Friday evening.

6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October TAMAKI – POHANGINA CROSSING

A crossing of the Southern Ruahines via the Tamaki River, Cattle Creek and the Pohangina River.

Leader:	Don Scott, ph. 71-675
Grading:	Medium
Cost:	\$3.50
Depart:	6.00 a.m. Saturday.

7<sup>th</sup> October TAMAKI RIVER

An easy stroll up the West branch of the Tamaki River to Stanfield Hut in the Ruahines near Dannevirke.

Leader:	Don Scott, ph. 71-675
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	\$2.00
Depart:	7.00 a.m. Sunday.

13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October OHAU – MANGAHAO

Bring ice axes in order that we can hopefully traverse part of the Dundas Ridge.

Leader:	Trevor Bissell, ph. 73-543
Grading:	Fit
Cost:	\$3.00
Depart:	6.00 a.m. Saturday.

14<sup>th</sup> October MANGAHAO

A stroll up the Mangahao from the No. 1 dam to Harris Creek Hut.

Leader:	Trevor Bissell, ph. 73-543
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	\$1.50
Depart:	7.00 a.m. Sunday.

20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October LABOUR WEEKEND – SNOWCAVING ON MT. RUAPEHU

Previous snowcraft experience and also a reasonable standard of fitness is essential. (Heavy packs must be carried high on the mountain). Bring your closed cell foam mats, snow goggles and ice axes and enjoy novel accommodation on a mountain.

Leader:	Kevin Pearce, ph. 70-217
Grading:	Fit
Cost:	\$6.00
Depart:	6.00 a.m. Saturday morning.

20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October LABOUR WEEKEND, WAITOTARA

An exploratory trip into rugged bush land. Bring plenty of enthusiasm and energy.

Leader:	Colin Hoare, ph. 88-546
Grading:	Medium
Cost:	\$4.50
Depart:	6.00 a.m. Saturday.

25<sup>th</sup> October CLUB NIGHT

27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October ROCK CLIMBING – TITAHIBAY

An ever popular activity with our Club; come for the day or two. Twelve places have been booked for the weekend. Bring clothing suitable for the Wellington picture theatres on Saturday night.

Leader:	Phillip Budding, ph. 85-936
Grading:	Easy
Cost:	\$5.00
Depart:	7.00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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NOTICES

NEW MEMBERS

We have pleasure in welcoming to the Club:

Adele Williams, Student, Massey University Rotary Court,	73-001
Catherine Farquhar, Student City Court, Ext. 49.	
Frances Trewby, 18 Pitt St., P.N.	68-622
Cheryl Sporry, 30 Bourke St., P.N.	67-789.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

John Carter, "Alnwick", Ashley St., Rangiora.

CLUB GEAR

The Club is always willing to accept donations of, or to purchase at reasonable cost, second hand climbing gear, particularly ice axes and crampons. Please contact Nic Bishop, 70-217.

PRE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

A booking has been made at the Steeple Restaurant on 30<sup>th</sup> November for 25 people. The cost of this evening out will be \$6.50. These dine and dance evenings have been very popular in the past so if you wish to participate ring Eric Van Toor, 70-217.

PERSONAL

World trippers Anne Flux and Wendy Chrisstoffels are working in hospital pharmacies in the London area.

Viv Mawson (now Bridges) and her husband Doug are in New Mexico for ten months but will be returning to their home in Buckingham before possibly visiting New Zealand in 1981.

The longer standing members will be pleased to hear that an old friend Jane Gilmartin (nee Scrymgeour) and her husband John will be returning to New Zealand in November. At present they are somewhere in the U.S.A.

SONG BOOKS

Song books are available to club members at \$1.25 from the Treasurer, Sarah Godfrey. See her at Club Night or phone 268-031.

LOST PROPERTY

A belt and a pair of shorts were left in Don Scott's car after the Tongariro trip on 5<sup>th</sup> August. The belt fits Don well and he is thinking of keeping it to defray costs (if there were any) but the shorts are too small for him so would the owner please ring Don, 71-675.

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PAST EVENTS

11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> August KIRIWHAKAPAPA – COW CREEK HUT – RUAMAHANGA

Five of us, but in two cars, headed across the Pahiatua Track to the sunny Wairarapa. Chrissie soon learnt not to trust her two navigators, and followed Karyn's red car from there. We left Karyn's car at the Ruamahanga Road end then headed to Kiriwhakapapa. Here we talked to the two Hutt Valleys and their dog, then set off up the track towards Blue Range and then onto Cow Creek Hut. We had heard it was a steep climb up to Blue Range Hut and the rumour proved to be true. But the views across to the snow covered Mitre and Three Kings on the main range on this beautifully clear day were mighty. We carried on down to Cow Creek Hut and it began raining soon after our arrival there.

It was a popular day to head to this area it seemed, and by dark there were 15 people vying for the 6 bunks in the hut, quite a sociable evening really.

Sunday was murky and damp and a river crossing of the Waingawa River at the outset didn't brighten the day much. Then it was over Cow Saddle and on down to the Ruamahanga River. The walk across the farmland was the most tiring part of the trip.

Karyn and Chrissie drove back to Kiriwhakapapa where Karyn was to wait eternally for Kevin and Nic who didn't arrive, and Chrissie drove the boys home.

Those who went: Karyn Bishop, Owen Gurr, Nigel Bingham, Karl Daamen and Chrissie Elliott.

#### SNOW, RAIN AND LEATHERWOOD - NGAMOKO RANGE

For some unknown reason one weekend in August Trevor B, Terry C, and Peter D found themselves in Palmerston North with nothing better to do than a day trip on the Ngamoko Range. So after about 3 hours sleep for some of us we headed out to Heritage Lodge past Apiti. Tramping up the track onto Tunupo we found the usual white-out with snow alternating with rain or wind so as not to bore us. Traversing north along the range was easy even in those conditions and we soon found the point where the Ngamoko Range divides. We headed down the ridge that leads to Iron Gates Hut and the Oroua. This ridge was good until we hit the leatherwood - snow covered for extra effect. Some good work by Trevor made Terry's first encounter with the leatherwood just a short two hours. Once we gained the scrubby bush below the leatherwood we came upon the end of a ? horrid NZFS track which we assumed went down to Iron Gates Hut. We followed this for a while but Trevor and Peter being Trevor and Peter we soon headed for the bush preferring to bush-bash our way down a spur towards the Tunupo – Oroua confluence. This ridge was reasonable travel so we soon had lunch at the reasonable hour of 5 p.m. when we reached the Oroua. After this an up - down scramble following the Oroua River track brought us back to the car after dusk.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> August SNOWCRAFT COURSE 1A, RUAPEHU

The score was as follows:

Weather	8/10
Snow Conditions	7/10
Number of participants	19
Quality and dedication of participants	18/20
Ascents of the High Peak of Ruapehu	12
Ascents of Girdlestone	5
Accommodation	8 / 10
Total	77 points.

Quite a good score for quite a good weekend. Remember it was only a basic course and if you want to get any good at snowcraft a lot more practice is required.

Participants were: Kevin Pearce, Keith Miller, Paul Davies, Cheryl Sporry, Terry Crippen, Raeleen Scott, Lorraine Tremain, Don Scott, Peter Darragh, Sarah Godfrey, Dianne Stanley, Philip Budding, Trevor Bissell, Kim Davies, Philip Beech, Stephen Moore, Eric Van Toor, Peter Stedman, Nic Bishop.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> August CLUB NIGHT

All the heavies were out of town for this Club Night but the meeting ran fairly smoothly despite this.

Lyn Dorrington and Warwick Lewis from NFAC showed slides and explained the present situation on Whirinaki, and other proposed National Park additions. Their talk prompted considerable discussion.

Then Chrissie Elliott spoke of the benefits of a tramping honeymoon over the Copland Pass and showed slides taken on that trip.

7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> September, SNOWCRAFT 1B

Fifteen people attended the second beginners' snowcraft course, after a lecture on the basics on the previous Wednesday. We left the luxury of the Massey Hut at 8.00 a.m. on Saturday, climbed to near the top of the second chairlift and practiced step kicking, step cutting, self arresting, and rope work in groups of four. Despite chilly conditions and light snow, the day's objectives were met with the last parties returning to the hut at 5.00 p.m.

A lot of snow fell on Saturday night, and conditions for Sunday were again windy with light snow. Two remained at the hut, while the rest of us climbed to the same area as on Saturday to learn some more basics. We got fairly cold about mid-day and headed back down.

Trip members were Terry Crippen, Richard Byrd, Philip Budding, Max Earby, Raewyn Devonshire, Vaughan and Kathy Crow, Adele Williams, Colin Hoare, Andrew Slack, Stephen Moore, Trevor Bissell, Kevin Pearce, Owen Gurr and Eric Van Toor.

9<sup>th</sup> September DAY TRIP – POHANGINA AREA

With 21 people on this day trip it was amazing that we left Supersave by ten past seven. Chrissie found it difficult navigating from the back of the van and so we saw a bit more of the Pohangina Valley roads than we planned to.

We were unable to obtain permission to cross the farmland which gives the access to the Pohangina River, so instead we drove up Takapari Road, and walked up the four-wheel drive track onto the ridge above the Pohangina River. The cloud level was low and we soon climbed into it. It was easy travel, but the group soon spread out as everyone climbed at their own pace. After three hours the hail and cold blustery conditions became unpleasant so we headed back to the cars and to home, with an icecream stop at Ashhurst.

A short day's tramp but everyone seemed to enjoy the outing. The twenty-one were (excuse spelling mistakes folks): Doug Marsh, Helen Power, Barbara McArdle, Leonie Coenders, Joann Ormrod, David Speller, Karl Daamen, Colin McPherson, Raeleen Scott, Don Scott, Kerry Bodger, Jane Apthorp, Chris Osborne, Debbie Searin, Lynette Nichols, Ian Alach, Suzanne de Roles, Chris Bucheler, Arthur Roach, Alan Dunn and Chrissie Elliot.

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STOP PRESS!

BIRTH At Punake, to Mary-Ann and Trevor Stretton, a son (Richard John). Very best wishes to Mum, Dad and Baby.

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TARARUA FOREST PARK'S SILVER JUBILEE THIS YEAR

Condensed from an article in the Forest and Bird magazine, August, 1979, by Catherine Chapman, Information Officer, N.Z. Forest Service.

The Tararua block of 103,000 acres was bought by the Crown from the Ngati Kahungunu, Muapoko, and Rangitane tribes for £2,972 more than 100 years ago.

At the turn of the century more land was added to the forest, including the Otaki, Waiohine, Waingawa, Ohau, and Mangahao catchments. By 1921, when the area became State forest, acquisitions had increased it to more than 200,000 acres.

In 1936 proposals to have the forest declared a national park as a centennial memorial for Wellington Province were dropped in favour of the Petone Beach memorial.

Further attempts to have a national park declared were made in 1952, but the Government finally decided on a system of management since adopted for forest parks, and so New Zealand's first forest park came into being in 1954.

The park extends some 80 km. Along the Tararua Range, north of Wellington, and now covers 155,405 ha.

The main aim of the Forest Service is to protect the forest there so that water supplies are safeguarded and flooding is controlled, but other uses of the forest park are encouraged. These include recreation, the preservation of scientific and historical areas, and wood production.

The Tararua Range is part of the mountain backbone running through the North and South Islands.

Large earth faults cross and border the range, which indicates that the mountains have developed in recent geological times.

The Ice Ages of 1 to 2 million years ago have left their mark. Ice action caused the characteristic U-shaped valleys, which are in contrast with the more common V-shaped stream and river valleys. The glacial periods destroyed the forest cover, and large areas of rock were exposed to frost action. This carved out many of the higher craggy peaks and caused erosion debris to be carried by the rivers to the surrounding lowlands.

The park's ruggedness possibly accounts for the lack of impact the early Maori people had on the range. The only settlements were in small clearings in the Hutt Valley, along the west coast, and on the Wairarapa plains. The Tararua outskirts provided a hunting ground and its interior a hiding place.

Tararua weather is notorious. Accidents have happened and lives been lost because of it. Blistering heat and freezing blizzard can occur on the same day at any time of year. An easy jaunt along the tops in sunny weather can quickly turn to a nightmare struggle against driving rain or snow. Wind gusts of up to 160 km. an hour are not uncommon on the higher ground, rainfall in the central highlands is about 5,000 mm. a year, and snow lies above the treeline for 3 to 5 months every year.

#### LEGEND OF A LAKE

Cloud hangs around the mountains on all but 80 days a year, and this may well account for the Maori legend of an elusive sacred lake.

Hapua Korari (Pool of the Flax Stick) was regarded as a place for the inspiration of chiefs and tohangas, but when others approached, fog and mist immediately hid the lake. One tale describes the lake as the resting place of the hokio, a bird similar to the giant moa; another describes the splendid food supplies. Two-headed eels and birds like the red kaka, huia, and white heron were said to be present, and the lake was said to be surrounded by very tall flax stalks as "thick as a man's leg".

A 400-ha. reserve was authorised by the Native Land Court in 1881 in recognition of the legendary "lost lake". There were rumours that a £200 reward was offered by the Governor for locating it. Today it is still a legal reserve - an undefined and unidentifiable area within the park, known as the Hapua Korari Maori Reserve.

#### RECREATION IN PARK

The Tararua Range has long been a playground for the people from the surrounding heavily populated areas. Recreation is encouraged in forest parks and there is a good relationship between the Forest Service and the many clubs and organisations using the Tararua Forest Park.

Co-operative efforts are made to build and maintain shelters and huts, and clubs are quick to respond to calls for assistance in search and rescue work.

For the energetic who climb to the tops the magnificent views are a satisfactory reward. To the north Ruapehu, Egmont, the Kaimanswas, and the Ruahines stand out. Plains, lakes rivers, and sea coast are visible on both sides of the range. The view to the south encompasses the western and northern ranges of Nelson and the Kaikouras.

The park is a fairly unexploited, non-polluted refuge for those seeking refreshment from city life. It offers solitude to those wanting peace and quiet and is a challenge for those wishing to experience nature at its best and worst.