



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

June 1991 Edition

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE FOODTOWN CAR PARK IN FERGUSON STREET.
IF YOU WANT TO GO ON A TRIP, PLEASE ADVISE THE LEADER AT LEAST THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OR WEEKEND TRIP, CONTACT THE LEADER OF
THE SCHEDULED TRIP.

Members are reminded that a charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip, the amount depending on the distance traveled and vehicles used. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

Please sign your name in the visitors book. There is a door fee of 30c which includes supper.

The PNTMC committee meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 436 College Street. Meetings are held for all Club (and intending) members on the last Thursday of each month and the Thursday two weeks prior to that evening. The venue is the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North, at 7:45 pm.

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME

JUNE 13 Club Night: Photo Competition

JUNE 27 Double Wammy! Nosh-up to generate funds for the Massey climbing wall, followed by videos. Don't miss it.

TRIP LIST

JUNE

JUNE 15/16 IRON GATES RUAHINES (M) Leader: Dave Orbell Ph 323-5145

JUNE 22/23 Mid Winter Gourmet at "SHALIMAR" ORONGORONGO Valley Leader: Tony Gates Ph 357-0990

JUNE 27 Club Night - Videos of various activities - watch this space.....

JUNE 29 WAITEWAIWAI Leader: Paul Scheyvens Ph 357-4138

JULY

JULY 6/7 ARETE BIV (F) Leader: Tony Gates Ph 357-0990

<u>JULY 7</u>	OHAU (E)	Leader: Brad Owen	Ph 358-3467
<u>JULY 11</u>	Club Evening: Peter Taylor (Fish and Game Council) will be talking about fishing in the headwaters of the Rangitikei and Manawatu Rivers.		
<u>JULY 13/14</u>	TARANAKI (F & Technical) climbing	Leader: Mike Johns	Ph 355-2162
<u>JULY 14</u>	ATENE SKYLINE WALKWAY (M)	Leader: John Barkla	Ph 0645-2373
<u>JULY 20/21</u>	SNOWCRAFT I at Rangipo Desert (M)	Leader: Peter Wiles	Ph 358-6894
<u>JULY 21</u>	SUNRISE HUT RUAHINES (E/M)	Leader: Tricia Eder	Ph 357-0122
<u>JULY 23</u>	Club Evening (Tuesday): T Bissell Memorial Quiz – arranged by Massey this year. The venue is yet to be confirmed.		
<u>JULY 27/28</u>	MITRE FLATS VIA THE PINES (E/M)	Leader: Dave Orbell	Ph 323-5145
<u>JULY 28</u>	KAHUTERAWA / SCOTTS RD Cycle Trip	Leader: Stuart Boyd	Ph 256-6235

EDITORIAL

This newsletter goes from strength to strength. It tells you all the wonderful and exciting things we get up to, and what's happening in the next month or so. Enjoy this newsletter, and utilise your Club and its leaders.

During the past month, we have organised several tramps into the beloved Ruahine Ranges. Plenty more to do there, but with the onset of winter, some of us are thinking of a bit further a field, to Ruapehu and Taranaki. Our annual "Snowcraft" course (and other ski and mountaineering trips, are certainly highlights. (Steve, do you want to come igloo building on Ruapehu again!) The annual winter gourmet trip must also be advertised here, this time to the Gates family hut in the Orongorongo Valley. It is a large, luxurious hut, and with a Swiss chef in charge of cooking, it is going to be a great weekend (yes, we do cook veges in red wine)

Dave Barker presented an extremely well patronised slide show last month about travels in the mountains of Ecuador. We also had slides shown about the mountains and bush of New Zealand, and have more evenings of a similar theme planned. Soon, your president will be calling for "v o l u n t e e r s " to participate in the annual quiz and debate. Think about it, the honour of having a chance to have your say, and a lot of fun at the same time.

With winter here, there have been a few searches recently for lost trampers. Some don't end happily. I think the initial cause for their problems was winter conditions, and followed by the difficulty of searching for them. Just remember that when you are out there. Enjoy tramping as it should be enjoyed, but prepare yourself adequately. Have a good month.

NOTICES

Subscriptions: THERE ARE STILL FAR TOO MANY MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT YET PARTED WITH THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS.

New Members

The Club extends a warm welcome two new members:

Jane Keble-Williams
Flat 5, 37 Albert Street
Palmerston North
Ph 359-0426

Nigel Barrett
126 Rugby Street
Palmerston North
Ph 356-1568

Also the Club welcomes back after several years

Perry Hicks
6 Adams Place
Palmerston North
Ph 355-1393

Resignation from Roger Redmayne

Roger, we understand, has purchased a farm down near Queenstown. Might be worthwhile popping in if down that way on a trip?

Massey Climbing Wall

Prior to the Club evening on June 27, there will be fund raising dinner at the Society of Friends Hall - starting at 6.30 pm. The entry donation will be \$4 per head in aid of the Massey climbing wall development. In the near future you will be contacted re assistance with some food and attendance.

Safety

In recent months, nationally there have been two people killed and a further three people given up for as assumed to be dead. It is timely to take note of a recent extract from the 1991 annual FMC report:

It is becoming evident that insufficient knowledge and attention is being applied to basic precautions requiring survival techniques in certain adverse conditions.

An understanding of river crossing technique, and the various methods for different conditions is inadequate. However, it might be related to the comparative inexperience and the lack of judgment of the persons involved. Perhaps this is also indicative of the increasing number of individuals privately going into outdoor recreation.

The other aspect is the number of persons climbing with the right type of equipment, who are not fully conversant with the correct use of that equipment when required for survival.

Each of us has a responsibility to be adequately prepared for a trip into the bush and our mountains. This can only be achieved with practical experience based upon training and education.

THEREFORE DON'T MUCK ABOUT – get yourself on one of the training courses to be organised by the Club over the next few months. A refresher course is always worthwhile (conditions are always different). Come to that; how good are your navigation skills? See below for more info.

Navigation: Map Reading Course

Q.E.C. Continuing Education

Basic introductory course to map reading and compass work. Four night sessions of 2 hours duration and 1 3-hour day session for practical application. Ideal for new trampers or those who want to learn navigational skills.

Courses start: 24 September (night course)

Details from Queen Elizabeth College, Continuing Education.

Change of Phone Numbers:

The local numbers have changed now. I am confident that there will be many errors – let us know. We will make every endeavour to adjust numbers accordingly. Please let Peter Wiles know if there are any errors.

BOOK REVIEW “GREAT PEAKS OF NEW ZEALAND” BY HUGH LOGAN (1990)

(published by McIndoe, in conjunction with N.Z.A.C.)

This book is written by an experienced mountaineer, for mountaineers and lay-persons alike. It is destined to grace libraries and coffee tables of all good New Zealand mountaineers, as well as of many foreigners. “Great Peaks” is a glossy, historical and factual reference book that should inspire readers to go a little further than the bookshelf. Its publication coincides with the celebrations of N.Z.A.C. in its centennial year.

The 16 “great peaks” featured in separate chapters are; Cook, Malte Brun, Sefton, Hicks, Tasman, Evans, Whitcombe, Arrowsmith, D’Archiac, Tutoko, Sabre, Earnslaw, Aspiring, Rolleston, Tapaeouenuku and Egmont. I did wonder what Hugh’s selection criteria were, and could myself consider a few other mountains worthy of such a publication (La Parouse and Mt Hooker, perhaps (ed)). Where were our favourite peaks of the recently named WORLD HERITAGE SITE of Tongariro National Park, or more of the Southern Alps? But one cannot do everything. Each “great peak” is presented with good stories, photographs, and a route guide, but lacks any maps.

Mountaineering is the type of activity that often tries to glamorise and publicise as much as to record itself in the form of books such as this one. This book is one of many, and can be compared to those by John Pascoe and Peter Radcliffe. Sure, it makes a statement about New Zealand Mountaineering that has often been said before, but it is up to date, and is written by one of our premier mountaineers of the 1980’s. “Great Peaks” is a welcome addition to my library.

TRIP REPORTS

BLYTH HUT / KETETAHI SPRINGS 16/17 FEBRUARY 91

At 7pm on Friday night, Sue and Lawson called in to pick me (Margaret) up for the journey mountainwards. For this weekend I had the pleasure of staying at the Pither’s cottage in Rangataua, surrounded by trees and pervaded by the

peaceful atmosphere of Rangataua. Sue and Lawson were most hospitable. Lots of beds, and even more floor space on the mezzanine floor. Also a pair of disgraceful old slippers perched by the armchair to fool any gazing burglars!

Saturday morning dawned with a fine view over the mountains from the mezzanine floor. We had a short drive to Onakune and then up onto the Turoa skifield road. (Ooooooops..... forgot the thermos!) Attractive mountain beech forest graced the start of our walk to Blyth Hut. The track had "2½ climbs" and a long boardwalk across a swamp. The sun beat down mercilessly – at least some of the time. Just below the hut we chose "Peggy's Pool" for our lunch spot: This was a beautiful clear pool hidden within cliffs of lava, well known to Lawson and Sue from their many previous jaunts.

Our Saturday "warm-up" completed, we explored some of the surrounding area. We visited Lake Rotokura and "Dry Lake", full of desolate dead tree stumps: but it soon became obvious that perched atop each of these stumps was a stilt, and that the whole area was teeming with bird life.

Back at the cottage, Lawson was out digging in his garden and soon provided us with the most amazingly huge turnips, carrots and potatoes for tea. Our after dinner walk took us through the once bustling metropolis of Rangataua: in its heyday, 5000 people lived here, many of whom worked at the Railway Workshops. Few signs remain, though you should visit, just to see the imaginatively painted picture theatre. (Don't tell Harrods what you find!)

On Sunday, we drove north to join up with a larger group of staff from P.N. Rehab, for the climb up to Ketetahi Springs. It was raining as we began And it rained as we continued The first part of the climb was through bush and then emerged into alpine scrub. We opted for lunch in the Hut before our foray to the Springs. What with all of us, and all of the tourists, (mainly Germans), the hut was like a sauna, but it gave us a welcome chance to warm up. We then briefly indulged in the Springs. If you want to do one really funny thing in your life, you really should climb up to Ketetahi Springs one day when it is pouring with rain. Few of life's experiences could match the hilarity of soaking your bare legs in the hot springs while cold rain pours down on the rest of your jaded body.

Thanks, Lawson and Sue, for your hospitality. Incidentally, anyone meeting Lawson on a wet, muddy track in the future is fully entitled to go "1, 2, 3, SPLASH!" in his direction!

We were: Lawson and Sue Pither and Margaret Riordan.

HOWLETT'S - SAWTOOTH RIDGE - HINERUA

On Tuesday 21 May, four keen trampers headed up the road from Moorcock Base and on reaching Pohangina Saddle were able to practise map and compass navigation skills in misty conditions. However, on reaching Otumore, and lunch, the mist blew away and the sun came out, though it was still chilly. We had a pleasant walk to Howletts, arriving in time for our expert fire lighter (pyromaniac?) to display his excellent skills on the pot-belly stove.

Next morning, the oldest member of the party was up bright and early to photograph the sunrise. We set off along the ridge to Tiraha in a very cold strong wind which lifted some lighter members off their feet. Cloud covered the tops, but across the Hawkes Bay all was clear and brilliant. Back into the mist and compass navigation onto Sawtooth Ridge with the odd view, we progressed over to Ohuinga. Some sastrugi covered tussock was selected for the lunch spot, but it was too cold to have more than half of it.

As we navigated down onto Hinerua Ridge we descended out of the mist. The rest of the descent to Hinerua Hut was sunny and enjoyable.

It was quite dark in the hut, so that we did not find the hut book until the morning, because the case it was in was painted black. Thus it was not until Thursday morning that we found out important directions to such places as the toilet.

In fine weather we continued along the track - overgrown in places, but, with excellent views of Black Ridge. After crossing the Tuki Tuki River, we met up with our transport at 12.25 pm - 5 minutes early!

Team: Chris and Roderick Saunders, Derek Sharp and Nigel Barrett.

THE WIND AND THE RAIN – May 19

The weather was magnificent on Saturday – clear tops, warm sun and only some high cloud - but we chose Sunday! All Sunday offered us was wind and rain.

We departed Ashhurst at about 8 am, but not before Tony had caused some dilemma by arriving too early, as I had work to do.

A steady slog brought us to the top of Maharaha – with driving wind, fine drizzle and mist. In reference to this particular trip, I'd say we were grateful for the corridor of leatherwood which provided shelter from the elements. Without bothering to stop and admire the view (or lack of one), we donned warmer gear and, made a rapid descent to Orouakerataki Stream. We grovelled a short distance upstream to ascend an old slip, then sidled around to join the track. This proved to be a much easier route than following the correct track, which starts a fair way downstream. At the hut, Tony's promised fire didn't eventuate, so we sat in the cold devouring lunch.

Orouakerataki Stream was reasonably easy to tramp down. More wind and rain, made it a bit chilly for the unprepared. Nevertheless, we had a good day tramp, completed by Tony Gates Nigel Barrett and Derek Sharp.

"IT WAS INVIGORATING" – Queens Birthday in the Kaweka Ranges

It was winter in the Kaweka Ranges. It was a reasonably long tramp on the tops, and it was invigorating.

We left the little car at 9.00 A.M., then got fair blown up the ridge to Kuripapango. (Involuntary excursions off the track were quite common.) Weather looked disgusting down south in the Ruahines, but clear to the north, our destination. The rain luckily held off, but the wind continued to "invigorate" us. A hell of a breeze. Derek managed a nifty self arrest when saving himself from disappearing over the side while descending the ridge down to Kiwi Saddle. Kiwi Saddle Hut, with its "Corker Cooker" operating, was a welcome lunch stop. A couple of hours down Kiwi Stream saw us at the hut on the banks of the mighty Ngaruroro River.

Memories of Kiwi Mouth Hut include large amounts of "stodge" for dinner (two courses), and an interesting character named Elizabeth in residence. She is a sort of professional trumper, or a semi-permanent resident of huts of the Kaweka Ranges. Elizabeth is forty five – fifty –ish, and was about half way into tramping solo for ten weeks in the area! She had done many such trips (of a shorter duration), but had only been tramping for a few years! She had all the gear - tent, mountain radio, helicopter assistance if necessary, and of course a few good tales to tell - including one of a few weeks ago when the SAS burst into camp! She loved the hills.

Sunday dawned rainy-ish, but slowly improved. We trotted up Back Ridge at a good pace, admiring views up valleys, and for a short time, a large snow covered mountain to the west. It is indeed an enormous area of tramping and hunting country over towards Waiouru and Turangi. One would need several weeks to explore even a part of it. After a quick lunch at Back Ridge Hut, we ambled over the tops to Studholm Saddle Hut. Conditions were very cold, in a word "invigorating". We squeezed into the nearby Bivy for the night because of overcrowding in the hut, a rather smokey fire, and a reputed heavy snorer! However, with such a squeeze, we had problems of our own (don't mention farting please). Derek somewhat reluctantly provided a fruitcake for all. Which reminds me of "The Scheyvens law of etiquette (in the jungle)", i.e. "What's yours is mine, and what is mine is my bloody own!" Fresh snow overnight.

Monday's weather was "invigorating" incredibly cold, but with the promise of a good day. An easy stroll past ice encrusted Pinus Contorta trees and tussocks in the mist took us to "The Rogue", and into the sunshine. "I would only sunbathe wearing a down jacket!" But we did find a warm sheltered spot to enjoy our last lunchtime brew, on the banks of "The Lakes", a most delightful spot only 10 minutes from the carpark. It's easy to see why the locals like the area so much. It's easy to see why we enjoyed the Kawekas, and why we all want to return. There is an excellent network of huts and tracks, large scenic rivers, and generally easy travel. Leatherwood is absent, and the weather often better on the eastern side of the divide. And for Marcel, there's even a few deer running around.

Those invigorated were; P. Wiles, D Sharp, P. Scheyvens, and T. Gates.

(DOC seems to be very active in the Kaweka area - freshly cut tracks and new carparks. Only the most recent maps of the area show anything like the number of established tracks. There is plenty of scope here for any type of trip from easy to FE, day to weeks, tramping to fishing and hunting and only 1/2 to 1 hour extra travelling time away. The Napier Taihape road no longer has its horrors of the past – Gentle Annie is sealed on both sides and the tar seal now extends a considerable distance east of the Rangitikei River.

(The weather is generally drier than the ranges to the south. And perhaps even better still, there is no leatherwood and very little alpine scrub. In most places, you wander directly from the beech onto open grassland. – Editor)

STEWART ISLAND – Xmas – January 1991 – by John Thomson

This is a slightly overdue trip report on our Christmas trip to Stewart Island. Stewart Island seemed a worthy destination for a Christmas trip – remote, 'overseas' and one of those 'must do sometime' trips on a New Zealand trampers' list. We organised the trip some months before Christmas as travel has to be booked ahead. We intended to do the 'Northern Circuit' of the main Island.

26 Dec We all met up at Christchurch and flew to Invercargill where we took a light plane flight to Stewart Island. Unfortunately passengers that day had a huge amount of baggage (one man had 60kg alone) and unbeknown to us, not all baggage was going to make it to Stewart Island that night. We had a good flight over but it wasn't very funny when Jim & I discovered all we had there was our cameras - everything else got left behind! This meant we couldn't make a start on the tramp as planned – 3 hours behind before we started! (I'd left my boots in Invercargill by accident so was quite pleased that the blame for not starting straight away was not all mine! - Jenni). We managed to scrounge 2 sleeping bags off D.O.C. and borrowed a disused hut for the night so we weren't too uncomfortable. Our packs and boots came over on the 1st plane the next day.

27 Dec For \$15 we got a taxi to Lee Bay, where the track starts. This was well worth it as our packs were very heavy. In fine weather we headed to Port William for lunch. We continued on to (Big) Dungaree Bay where we camped the night. This is a beautiful bay with a sandy beach and rock pools – the water looks inviting but is however exceedingly cold. Nevertheless some had a quick dip. Jim and Marcel caught blue Cod off the rocks for tea. The weather followed what we came to realise was the standard Stewart Island pattern – fine during the day then at 4 pm close in with squalls and showers. This happened everyday of the trip! Island weather? We also had an introduction to the wildlife of Stewart Island – sandflies. I've never seen so many – constant vigilance was needed to keep them off.

28 Dec We slept in and it wasn't 'till 9:30 that we got going. We headed north largely inland and reached Lucky Point where we camped. The sandflies were incredible here – biting through polypropylene! Marcel and Jim again caught fish for tea. The campsite beside a river was obviously regularly used. While cleaning our teeth at the river Jenni and John were amazed to see a little blue penguin swimming upriver just beneath our feet, soon to be followed by another – they hopped out and took off onto the rocks to their nest in the bush somewhere. Other life of interest was the two types of native parrot which Jim was on the look out for. He also hoped to sight the rare yellow eyed penguin which lives on Stewart Island. Kiwis are also common – we heard them but never saw them.

Both Jenni & John were having boot problems by this stage. Jenni developed heel blisters which were very deep and nasty. Each day from here on they had to be cleaned and dressed, a job expertly performed by Dr Marcel. My rubber boots were crippling me due to pressure on my ankle bones and nerves, and Achilles tendons – the first of many cuts with my pocket knife solved some of the problem.

29 Dec We walked from Lucky Bay to Yankee River for lunch, then on to Smokey Beach for the evening. Jenni was exhausted by late morning & was saved by the sight of the first orchid of the trip – the only reason she saw it was that she was crawling up a bank with her nose about 2 inches off the ground! She was pretty excited about the find but the rest of the crew didn't seem to appreciate such delicate beauty! In the afternoon Marcel had an adrenalin pumping experience – he fell over a bank with a long drop to a rocky stream. Fortunately his boot caught under a root & he ended up hanging upside down, complete with pack attached from one foot! There was a polythene clad bivy next to a river which we used as our tea shelter as it rained in the evening. Jim got us four big paua which were absolutely delicious. It would be possible to tramp round Stewart Island with just a bag of rice, relying on seafood for the rest of the meal!

30 Dec We headed around to Long Harry Hut for lunch. This area is noted as a nesting site for the yellow eyed penguin. The views of the sea coast were magnificent. We continued on to East Ruggedy Beach Hut in weather that at times was pretty rough. This is a really wild section of coast. We were able to get very close to seals on the beach here. We spent a very comfortable night in the little bivy – inland of East Ruggedy and nestled in the sand dunes. Marcel decided it was time for the luxury of a hot water bath – well basin might be more accurate! This was real kiwi country. The log book mentioned sightings and the sand outside had kiwi prints all around the area.

31 Dec We had originally planned for several rest days in the course of the trip but had to keep putting them off largely because of the time lost at the start. We planned to have one on New Years day at Waituna Beach, a place famed for its fishing and paua. However Tricia had somehow injured her back and couldn't take her pack and even had trouble walking. It looked a bit like a rescue situation at East Ruggedy but we shared out Tricia's load amongst us and thought we'd see how things went. Marcel had an interesting day: Firstly having a bit of English/Sex education and secondly a step into DEEEEEP mud! – up to the groin! At the junction of Waituna and Benson Peak tracks, we decided we would have to change our plans, so instead of going over to Waituna Bay, the Hellfire Beaches and Masons Bay, we would go inland via the Ruggedy flat swamp down to Freshwater Hut where a boat could get access if needed. We went on to Benson Peak Hut where we had a New Years eve dinner. Jenni managed to ruin the Christmas pudding by smothering it in brandy – and was banished to her tent in disgrace. At least the possums enjoyed it! Benson Peak was a comfortable hut, like a Tararua hut, with walls of polythene. The log book had some interesting stories about the swamp we were to walk through the next day – neck high water, exposure to wind, rain and snow, and treacherous tracks either side of which were bottomless holes. D.O.C. suggest carrying a staff to check the depth of what's in front of you before you move!

1 Jan We walked the first 15 km through the swamp gradually getting wetter (and muddier!) as we fell in holes then finally from above as we got a good soaking – the only time we really had any rain. The swamp was a beautiful place with delicate colours and interesting scenery. We could hear the surf on Masons Bay – apparently in a storm it can be heard in Oban – nearly 30 km away! Freshwater Hut was big and we soon had a good fire to dry out by.

2 Jan Marcel, Jim and Jenni raced up Rocky Mountain in the morning to get a view of the Island – we could see where we had come from the previous day plus Masons Bay and even Oban in the distance. We descended and continued on to North Arm Hut for the night. Tricia struggled on gamefully and it looked like she would be O.K. We had a big feed of mussels off the beach – fried in garlic and butter! They were delicious. We shared the hut with other trampers – the first time since our first night.

3 Jan We walked out to Oban. By luck a Landrover appeared and we got a lift back into town. We weren't due to leave until Jan 5 so we decided to stay at the Hotel where we consumed copious amounts of beer and played UNO.

4 Jan No one seemed to have much energy, but some of us managed to do some of the walks close to Oban – i.e. through to Horseshoe Bay. Jenni found some rocks for bouldering at Bathing Beach next to Oban – complete with dyno

moves! We had a fishing competition off the wharf – there were so many fish (you could see them) it would be 30 seconds or less to catch a fish. Unfortunately there were so many small ones, the big ones (blue cod) didn't get a chance to get on the hook.

5 Jan We were due to fly out but the weather was too bad – almost zero visibility due to HEAVY rain. We decided 5 mins before the ferry left to cross Foveaux Strait back to Bluff that we should get on board. It wasn't really rough but it must rate as one of the worst sea trips I've had. It wasn't rough in the slightest! There was a 1 metre swell and practically no wind. Jenni was VERY disappointed as she wanted to experience the 'south seas'. John wasn't at all well when we got to Bluff but wasn't actually sick. Tricia fared less well, while seafarers Jenni and Marcel stood at the bow to get maximum in bucking and soaking in the waves!

In Invercargill we found a motel – the deciding factor being whether it had a spa or not! We had a superb spa then went foraging for food – Chinese in the end, and it included the most wonderful venison dish ...

6 Jan The airport had organised our flights home. John was left in Christchurch and the rest of us flew on to Palmerston North. (... the end of a GREAT trip with HEAPS of laughs!)

Stewart Island is a different tramping experience to the rest of New Zealand. The tracks are very well established, so there are no route finding problems, though they are rough and muddy so that you have to concentrate to avoid falling – quite tiring. The country is interesting – native orchids abound (Jenni's cries of joy over a new orchid could probably be heard kms away), and we even saw a deer just off the track – but don't go expecting anything really spectacular, or expecting a coastal walk – the tracks are mostly inland. Stewart Island would be a good place to drop out for a month or so tramping front beach to beach and eating from the sea. There were several logbook entries of people who had been in 30 days or more!

We were: John Thomson, Marcel Hollenstein, Jim Cooper, Jenni Madgwick, Tricia Eder.

(This report evokes memories of years back. Twenty years ago tracks beyond Christmas Village and Freshwater were almost non existent with much route finding required. Huts were few and far between. Don't let a chance to go to Stewart Island go begging. – ed)

Last, but not to forget the Club's past – and those halcyon days of December 1975, when tramping was real tramping:

A ONE DAY NORTHERN CROSSING

This was no Friday night to South Ohau Hut to shorten the day's run. The first walking began just before 5 am. from the farm house and day break welcomed the four stalwarts on the lower gorge track.

A second breakfast was consumed at South Ohau before the climb up to the New Improved Te Matawai Hotel. Having swept the kitchen floor, the group plodded on and into the Tararua mists. The best route off Arete was not followed – but never mind.

Lunch was taken soon after with a view of Arete Forks in such shelter that the lee slopes provided from the wind. The next stop was Tarn Ridge Hut where the reserves of strength were built up for the climb ahead. However, Gridlestone, Broket and Mitre were eventually traversed, leaving a beautiful downhill run all the way down to Mitre Flats.

The weekenders provided hot drinks and good company (not the Greggs coffee type).

Slightly refreshed four sleepwalkers invested a couple of hours of their time on the Barra Track. At 9 pm. (16 hours from the farmhouse), the road and shelter was reached. Roy lost a game of chance and as a result accompanied Tim to the nearest available telephone, 1 hour down the road. The slackers discovered meanwhile, that gravel can make a comfortable bed.

Thanks to John Williams for driving over to pick up 4 weary people and delivering to their abode at 3.30am.

The stalwarts:- Tim Short, Roy Wilson, Peter Darragh and Trevor Bissell.

DECEMBER

- 1 (To be advised) Leader: Ph
- 7/8 XMAS DINNER RANGI (E) Leader: To be advised
8 RANGI HUT (E) Leader Doug Strachan Ph 357 5732
- 12 Club Evening
- 14/15 COLENSO CROSSING RUAHINES (M/F) Leader: Mick Leyland Ph 358 3183
- 15 OTAKI FORKS TARARUAS (E) Leader: Kevin Pearce Ph 357 0217
- XMAS TRIPS ? LAKE WAIKAREMOANA (OPEN)
Contact Tony Gates Ph 357 0990

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 hours, Medium (M) 5 - 6 hrs, Fit (F) about 8 hrs, Fitness Essential (FE) > 8hrs. (T) refers to trips graded technical requiring either special skills and / or gear.

Gear

The club has gear available for hire. For major trips and instruction courses, some gear might be in short supply and early bookings are desirable. Phone Daryl Rowan (356 4655) between 5 and 6 pm.

Gear for General Trips

For day trips, Each person should have appropriate footwear, small pack, lunch and nibbles, water bottle, parka, over trousers, gloves, and woollen head gear. There must be at least one torch, first aid kit, map and compass amongst the group, plus an adequate supply toilet paper and sun cream etc. On snow, dark glasses or preferably goggles are essential.

For weekend or longer trips, a large pack with sleeping bag and cover, carry-mat, parka, over-trousers, mittens, balaclava, longjohns / change of warm clothes, torch, with spare bulb, map compass, eating utensils, first aid kit, sun cream, candle, matches, toilet paper, and food for appropriate number of days. Dinners are usually communal. Hut passes are required depending on location and plans.

Overdue Trips Contacts

Linda Rowan Ph 356 4655, or Brad Owen Ph 358 3467, or Lawson & Sue Pither Ph 357 3033.

Club Officers for 91/92

President: Tony Gates 357 0990 Secretary: Brad Owen 358 3467
Treasurer: Peter Wiles 358 6894 Membership enquiries: Tricia Eder 357 0122 or Tony Gates 357 0990 Editor: Peter Wiles; Newsletter mailing: Peter Wiles; Gear custodian: Daryl Rowan 356 4655

**P. N. Tramping & Mountaineering Club Inc.
Six Month Eve. Calendar June - December 91****JUNE**

- 1-3 Q's Birthday KAWEKAS (M) Leader: Peter Wiles
Ph 358 6894
- 8/9 TAKAPARI RD (M) Leader: Tony Gates
Ph 357 0990
- 8 To be advised (E) Leader Liz Morrison Ph 357 6532
- 9 Diggers Hut (E/M) Leader: Mick Leyland
Ph 358 3183
- 13 Club Night: Photo Competition
- 15/16 IRON GATES RUAHINES (M) Leader: Dave Orbell
Ph 323 5145
- 22/23 Mid Winter Gourmet at "SHALIMAR" ORONGORONGO
Valley Leader: Tony Gates Ph 357 0990
- 27 Club Night
- 29 WAITEWAIWAI (M) Leader: Paul Scheyvens Ph 357 4138
29/30 To be advised

JULY

- 6/7 ARETE BIV (F) Leader: Tony Gates Ph 357 0990
7 OHAU (E) Leader: Brad Owen Ph 358 3467
- 11 Club Evening
- 13/14 TARANAKI (F&Technical) Climbing Leader: Mike Johns
Ph 355 2162
- 14 ATENE SKYLINE WALKWAY (M) Leader: John Barkla
Ph 0645 2373
- 20/21 SNOWCRAFT I at Rangipo Desert (M) Leader: Peter Wiles
Ph 358 6894
- 21 SUNRISE HUT RUAHINES (E/M) Leader: Tricia Eder
Ph 357 0122
- 23 Club Evening (Tuesday): T Bissell Memorial Quiz at Massey
- 27/28 MITRE FLATS VIA THE PINES (E/M) Leader: Dave Orbell
Ph 323 5145
- 28 KAHUTURAU / SCOTTS RD Cycle Trip Leader: Stuart
Boyd Ph 356 6235

AUGUST

- 3/4 TARANAKI EAST RIDGE (F&T) Climbing Leader: Peter
Wiles Ph 358 6894
- 3 To be advised (E) Leader: Liz Morrison Ph 357 6532
- 10/11 LEON KINVIG (POHONGINA) (M) Leader: Marcel
Hollenstein Ph 358 0245
- 11 RANGI & BEYOND SKIING (M/F) Leader: Mike Hewett
Ph 358 6853
- 15 Club Evening
- 17/18 MID RUAHINES (M) WOMEN ONLY Leader: Linda Rowan
Ph 356 4655
- 17/18 SNOWCRAFT II KAPUNI LODGE TARANAKI (F&T) Leader:
Brad Owen Ph 358 3467
- 24/25 ROARING STAG TARARUAS (E-M) Leader: Dave Orbell
Ph 323 5145
- August Holidays: Interested in a trip of about 7 days? Ideas please to Peter
Wiles.
- 29 Club Evening
- 31/1 HIKURANGI RANGE SKI - PURITY/MCKINNON (M-F)
Leader: Tony Gates Ph 357 0990

OCTOBER

- 5/6 CATTLE RIDGE ARARUAS (M) Leader: Tricia Eder
Ph 357 0122
- 6 HEREPAI (E) Leader: Alison McColl Ph 358 9326
- 10 Club Evening
- 12/13 NGAMOKO RANGE RUAHINES (M) Leader: Mick Leyland
Ph 358 3183
- 13 RANGI (E) Leader: Margaret Riordon Ph 356 7460
- 19/20 MAROPEA FORKS RUAHINES (F) Leader: Perry Hicks
Ph 355 1393
- 20 NORTH RANGE RD CYCLE TRIP Leader: Stuart Boyd
Ph 356 6235
- 26-28 MT HIKURANGI EAST CAPE (M) Leader: Peter Wiles
Ph 358 6894
- 26 CYCLING Leader: Sally Hewson Ph 357 0990
- 26- A week or so SKI MOUNTAINEERING SOUTHERN ALPS
Leader: Tony Gates Ph 357 0990
- 31 Club Evening Map and Compass Skills

SEPTEMBER

- 1 PURITY HUT HIKURANGI RANGE (M) Leader: Doug
Strachan Ph 357 5732
- 7/8 CATTLE CREEK RUAHINES (M) Leader: Mary Craw
Ph 329 0749
- 8 STANFIELD HUT (E) Leader: Perry Hicks Ph 355 1393
- 12 Club Evening MUAC Debate at Society of Friends
- 14/15 HOLDSWORTH - JUMBO TARARUAS (M) Leader: Simon
McCracken Ph 355 4746
- 15 TAKAPARI RD / STANFIELD (M) Leader: Daryl Rowan
Ph 356 4655
- 21/22 MAHOENUI Nth. TARANAKI CAVING (M&T) Leader: Steve
Glasgow Ph 0650 68838
- 21/22 IRON GATES RUAHINES (E) Leader: Chris Saunders
Ph 358 4899
- 26 Club Evening
- 28/29 SNOWCRAFT III RUAPEHU SNOWCAVING (F&T) Leader:
Peter Wiles Ph 358 6894
- 29 KUMETI (E/M) Leader: Tricia Eder Ph 357 0122

NOVEMBER

- 2/3 NAVIGATION SKILLS (E) Leader: Linda Rowan Ph 356 4655
- 2/3 TARANAKI OPEN CLIMBING TAHURANGI LODGE (E, M,
F&T) Leader: Mike Johns Ph 355 2162
- 9/10 WATERFALL CREEK HUT RUAHINES (F) Leader: Marcel
Hollenstein Ph 358 0245
- 10 KIRIWHAKAPAPA TARARUAS (E/M) Leader: Perry
Hicks Ph 355 1393
- 14 Club Evening
- 16/17 SAWTOOTH RIDGE RUAHINES (F) Leader: Tony Gates
Ph 357 0990
- 17 DAPHNE HUT (E/M) Leader: Arthur & Lis Todd
Ph 323 6246
- Possible SAREX about this time.
- 23/24 BUSHCRAFT SKILLS (M&T) Leader: Tony Gates
Ph 357 0990
- 24 RUAMAHANGA TARARUAS (E) Leader: Greg Reid
Ph 0592 5878 then 06 372 5878
- 28 Club Xmas Dinner - Coachman
- 30/1 ROCK CLIMBING (E&T) Leader: Jenni Madgwick Ph 354 0536
30 Location to be advised (M) Leader: Brad Owen