



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
NEWSLETTER

February 1993 Edition

Gear Custodian

Newsletter Editor & Newsletter Distribution

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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Brad Owen	: Ph. 358-3467
Daryl & Linda Rowan	: Ph. 356-4655
Sue & Lawson Pither	: Ph. 357-3033

TRIPS OFTEN LEAVE FROM THE FOODTOWN CAR PARK IN FERGUSON STREET UNLESS THE LEADER ARRANGES OTHERWISE.

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.

## SCHEDULED EVENT LIST

### FEBRUARY

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
<u>FEBRUARY 13-14</u>	North Ruapehu lava fields	M	Peter Wiles	358-6894
<u>FEBRUARY 13-14</u>	Whakapapa	Open	Pauline Coy	356-8782
<u>FEBRUARY 21</u>	Ohau Gorge	Wet/E	Daryl Rowan	356-4655
<u>FEBRUARY 20-21</u>	Kaweka Challenge	F		
<u>FEBRUARY 20-21</u>	Weekend	M/F	Perry Hicks	355-1393
<u>FEBRUARY 27</u>	Rimutaka Crossing	E/M	Sue and Lawson Pither	357-3033

**FEBRUARY 27-28** Te Matawai M Brian Lawrence 324-8552

Club Nights: Thursdays 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

<b>MARCH</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Trip</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b><u>MARCH 7</u></b>	Maharahara	E/M	Marcel Hollenstein	359-4212
<b><u>MARCH 6-7</u></b>	Pinus Contorta	E/M	Perry Hicks	355-1393
<b><u>MARCH 14</u></b>	Cattle Creek/Mid Pohangina	M	Paul Scheyvens	357-4138
<b>National Walk Week 13-21</b>				
<b><u>MARCH 13-14</u></b>	Holdsworth	M	Pauline Coy	356-8782
<b><u>MARCH 21</u></b>	Blue Range/Kiriwhakapapa	E	Jenny McCarthy	06-376-8838
<b><u>MARCH 21</u></b>	Stanfield Hut	E	Mick Leyland	358-3183
<b><u>MARCH 20-21</u></b>	Waterfall Creek	F	Peter Wiles	358-6894
<b><u>MARCH 28</u></b>	Sunrise Hut Ruahines	E	Tricia Eder	357-0122
<b><u>MARCH 28</u></b>	Te Atuaoparapara	M/F	Peter Stockdale	355-5277

Club Nights: Thursdays 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAMME**

There will be many more interesting Thursday evenings put on by PNTMC and friends. We have arranged another talk by DOC for the end of February on the "Conservation Management Strategy". They want to keep us (the users) informed, and they want feedback on how they perform.

#### **EVENTS PROGRAMMED FOR 1993**

1. Pauline is planning to block book MTS's hut at Whakapapa for sometime late January or perhaps February. A good weekend for a general wander about the mountain.
2. Greg Preston: Climbing in Greenland
3. Clive Jones: Climbing in Argentina
4. PNTMC activities featuring Christmas in the Kaimanawas and Kawekas etc. Bring along your slides.
5. AGM -End of March

#### **EDITORIAL**

Summer. Where is it? When is it? They at the Met. Office suggest that for 1993 there will be no summer. At least that means no drought and no forest fire danger. We just have to make the most of the good? weather and long days.

Hillary Hurst, our friendly manager from Mountain Equipment, recently suffered a fall off Mt Lendenfeld, (near Mt Cook). She was badly injured in a fall of about 400 m, so was lucky enough to obtain a helicopter lift out shortly after her fall. We are pleased to hear that after three weeks in hospital, Hillary is on the mend, and will soon be working at the shop again. Makes you think how vulnerable we are when in the mountains. A couple of us were over in the Orongorongo valley recently, and a little girl got lost from what is probably the most tramped track in New Zealand. She made headlines because she was out in the bush overnight, and police had fears for her safety. And that was only half an hours walk from the car! Just remember how dangerous the bush can be.

We have been running several tramps recently, to all the usual places, and a few further a field. There are plenty more planned. Contact the leader if interested. And remember, look out for Moa on your next tramp.

**THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY**, we have planned to hear Andrew Spence, of Department or Conservation, Wanganui, talk about and present an audio- visual display on the Conservation Management Strategy for the Wanganui-Taranaki Conservancy. He wants us to consider options for the area, and wants to listen to our opinions on DOC

activities and the DOC estate. There will be a discussion document available for us to look at. Hopefully Steve Boulton will also attend, so can fill us in on the latest details of what is happening in the Ruahines.

We should be able to place another order for Annual Hut Passes with Steve then. These provide hassle free accommodation with DOC. and are proving to be very popular. Price \$40.00. Don't miss this talk.

### **THURSDAY 11 MARCH**

Map and compass skills will be put to the test. This will be the last club night before daylight saving ends so we propose to make full use of it. Linda Rowan has agreed to organize this activity. We will meet at Society or Friends at 7.45 pm sharp and perhaps have a brief session on the theory before heading out into the great unknown. Bring a compass and a local street map, jersey, raincoat / umbrella.

### **THURSDAY 25 MARCH** (couple of weeks before Easter) "ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING" **AGM AGM AGM AGM AGM**

Entertainment always is provided. Last year supper was, maybe this time we will have a speaker after the AGM, then supper. Not boring.

This is the principle administrative evening for PNTMC, when we elect officers, present annual reports, and discuss club matters. On the agenda is, as usual, subscriptions. More details in March newsletter. It is good for the Club to have good participation, and members prepared to assist when and where required. Contact a committee member if you are interested in standing for office or committee. No job is too onerous.

### **AGM AGM AGM AGM AGM** **NOTICES**

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Please welcome Dave Hodges who has finally taken the plunge ...  
33 Heatley Avenue  
P.N. Ph. 358-5981

#### **ANNUAL HUT PASSES**

Contact Tony for passes, details etc.

#### **NATIONAL WALK WEEK**

Next month there is another of these annual WALK\_A\_K\_A\_\_DAY weeks. We have a couple of trips planned. A good time to get out before a touch of winter? tinges the air.

#### **FOR THOSE POLITICALLY VOCATED**

If anyone desires to either stand for nomination to FMC committee or wishes to air their credentials for the Minister to select for Taranaki / Wanganui Conservation Board, contact us as we have the necessary forms for both.

#### **PINUS CONTORTA**

Yes folks that subject again! We will tap into one of the groups going on this on the 13/14 of March. This will be about the last opportunity for this season to get on P Contorta. So don't just be an armchair environmentalist get out and participate in the real thing and earn a few dollars for the club. Contact either Perry Hicks (might be a bit hard to track down approaching 13<sup>th</sup> March as he is getting married) or try Peter Wiles.

#### **TRIP REPORTS**

Don't forget to get your trip reports in, or a letter to the editor or some good gossip, or a poem or what ever.

#### **FMC PASSES**

Most members will receive their FMC passes in this newsletter - and not before time too.

#### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Next committee meeting will be at Peter Wiles' place 12 Jensen Street, 4 March.

#### **AN INVITATION**

We have received an invitation from the Wanganui Tramping Club to join their trip to the Atene Skyline Walkway on Anzac Day 25th April. If interested ring Cecily Matthews on 06-342-4833. The rendezvous will be at the Deerstalkers Club, 100 Peat Street at 8 am or at the northern entrance to the track at 9 am.

### **TRIP REPORTS**

#### **WIND CHILL PROBLEMS ON RUAPEHU** by Peter Wiles

We opted to return to Ruapehu on the Saturday evening before Christmas. We travelled towards the Desert Road a few hours after a cold front had passed through. There was new snow down to about 1200 m. The mountain did not look clear at this stage. We parked the car near the Round-the-mountain track crossing on the Tukino Road. In the 5 or 10 minutes we spent changing and organizing our gear, the mountain underwent a dramatic clearance. We plodded up the road in snow into a moderate southerly breeze which we soon noted was around, or below freezing. Beyond the road end there was still a little light remaining, so we headed on a low side before taking a fairly direct and rocky route towards Whangaehu Hut.

Things progressed quite well until we reached the ridge top at 2100 m at the "drop-off" point for the hut. The wind coming over the ridge was tremendous and in the freezing conditions had swept the southerly windward slope clear of fresh snow leaving a hard icy surface. Anyone having been to Whangaehu Hut knows that an uncontrolled slide in the dark in this area could have serious repercussions. We elected to back off the ridge a little and put our crampons on. This task in the conditions was almost impossible and demonstrated the merits of the new "step into" style of crampons. Spin drift immediately covered the boot and the straps that one was trying to wrestle with. Feeling was almost immediately lost in the fingers and one began to worry about exposure in the conditions.

After I got one crampon on and the other sort of on, Lance headed off. Fortunately the slope was not as icy as it first appeared to be and almost immediately one of my crampons came off. In the wind and flying snow and pitch darkness it was not easy to get ones bearings onto the hut but Lance pressed on - right on target. Soon my other crampon came off, but now we were on rocky ground with soft snow. A short while later we were in the hut. It was nearly midnight. We took stock of our fingers. Once they started to thaw the pain was severe, but it soon became evident that we had a touch of frost nip on some of them.

In the morning the wind was still blowing and the mountain was partly cloudy. We elected to go for a walk up to the Plateau to see what we could see. We left the hut and headed up the slopes of the Whangaehu Glacier. Some of the fresh snow was more than 30 cm deep but on steeper areas all the new snow had been blown clear. The latter areas offered good cramponing. We opted to head onto Cathedral Rocks via its north-east ridge. The scattered cloud became virtually continuous as we climbed the last 100 m to the summit. On the summit we sat and waited for 10 - 15 minutes for a possible clearance but nothing eventuated.

On the way back down we picked our way rather carefully through the whiteout. In places our tracks had already disappeared. It was now becoming evident rather than the wind blowing heaps of snow around that it was also snowing. We got back to the hut for an early lunch.

It continued to snow all day back down to at least 100 m below the Tukino Lodges. We emerged from the cloud and walked down to the car. We noted how awful the conditions looked over on Ngaurahoe. Little did we know that almost simultaneously with our comments, a needless tragedy was taking place on that mountain.

Lance Broad and Peter Wiles

(Footnote: After losing a layer or two of skin from 3 or 4 finger tips, my hands are now back to normal. I guess this reaffirms that conditions on Ruapehu at any time of the year can be severe and that appropriate gear and precautions are always necessary.)

**FUN TIMES (in the Kaimanawa/ Kaweka Ranges)** (with apologies to the newspaper of the same name) story by some of the trip members.

This is the story of the great PNTMC Christmas tramp of 1992/1993. Peter Wiles, Tony Gates, David Hodges, and Chris and Roderick Saunders all enjoyed tramping across large areas of the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Ranges.

## **THE WAIPAKAHI VALLEY**

The initial stage of our route across the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Ranges was the not unsubstantial trek up the Waipakahi Valley to Waipakahi Hut, located at the headwaters of the river. We arrived at the hut in time for lunch on Monday December 28, having tramped for two half days and "slept under canvas" on Sunday night at the Thunderbolt Track junction. The Waipakahi Valley contrasts with some other areas along our route through the Kaimanawas and Kawekas because the landscape is dominated by bush instead of tussock & scrub. Also, there are no disfiguring erosion scars. This makes it one of the most attractive river / alpine valleys in the North Island, even in bad weather.

The broad river valley rises so gently that as you walk, you are not aware of it doing so. Beside the Waipakahi there are river flats where red tussock is definitely the dominant species of plant, almost forming a carpet. There are a lot of camp sights along the valley, both on the flats and in the bush which covers the steep slopes that flank them on each side. We were accompanied by rain and mist right up the valley, and even further into the duration of the trip. The tops of the ranges were veiled in cloud. Steady rain fell almost continually, & there was

virtually no difference when it stopped because of the water dropping off the trees with equal force & frequency. During the walk up the valley, we crossed the river about once every 10 minutes, so we got even wetter. Along the Waipakahi there are rapids, areas of shallow water, and a number of deep swimming holes in which the water is a beautiful shade of green. The flats don't continue right up the valley - there is a short gorge which necessitates sloshing and splashing in the river for a couple of hundred metres. The highlight of this part of the trip regarding wildlife was the sighting of several blue ducks. They are well camouflaged as their grey colour blends in with surrounding stones in the river bed. We didn't see any deer in the Waipakahi Valley.

So, the Waipakahi Valley was behind us. We grunted and bush bashed over to the Rangitikei River for another night in the tent in the rain. Weather was not all that promising the next morning. It was once again a grunt out of the valley and onto the tops, but thankfully the weather showed positive signs of clearing. Bit of a problem on the tops and in the cloud though, as the scale of the country dwarfed us, and fooled the navigator (Peter) into missing the turn off towards Makarako. It's easily done. However, the cloud lifted to reveal that we were progressing rather too well down the Island Range about 2 km past the turn off! At the high point for the day, nearly 1700 m, Peter did a side trip to Makarako – 15 minutes away. This is a mountaineering club isn't it?

Evening saw five reasonably tired trampers nestled in our tent beside the Mangamaire River. The tent was for protection from the fierce sun wasn't it. Well, just as we retired the rain really started with a few good gusts of wind. Fortunately in our rather exposed camp site all stayed secure. But the next day it was sunny, and we dawdled over to the Mangamingi River and up to the famous Boyd Lodge. Really wide open spaces in the Ngaruroro, beautiful rivers, and the ubiquitous beer drinking crowds. I recall a slide show by Phil Clerk and John Wright some three years ago, describing a canoe trip down the Ngaruroro River from Boyd Lodge, and I recall photos of a lovely river. But with no canoe, and not even a fishing rod, we were "purist" trampers.

## THE KAWEKA RANGES

From then on, we were in the Kawekas. A person had warned us of "the five hour tough tramp" over to Tussock Hut. Then we met a party who found it even more difficult, and had to camp the night out half way. An easy hour and a half from Boyd Lodge, we were there. Some people!

The tramp blended into a bit of a hut bash for a while, there are so many huts in the Kawekas. It is however delightful tramping, and by all accounts a fishing, hunting, and rafting paradise.

We stayed at Tussock Hut, rested up for a day or so, then moved to the luxurious Harkness Hut. After an early start and a solid workout climbing back to the tops we arrived for morning smoko at - Te Pukeohikarau Hut, say again please, or would you prefer to call it simply Te Puke, was a delightful spot on the tops. Near the Te Puke trig Tony spotted 2 deer and had a couple of shots but both seemed to avoid trouble. From there, we were in and out of the bush as we made our way to Mangaturuturu Hut for lunch. Good views of the Mohaka Valley to the north, the Ngaruroro Valley to the south, and the omnipresent Kaweka Range. A good ridge.

Venison Top, more passionately referred to simply as V.T., was a welcome sight after lunch. We stayed at V.T. Lodge or otherwise known as Kelvinator Lodge. A good (?) brew of fresh scones mmmmmmmmmmm, and a good rest aaaaahhhh. Tony went out to shoot his first Sika stag, one of many in the area. In fact we saw several deer in the area. After dinner Tony went out again and surprise surprise came back with another Sika!

The first day of 1993 saw us strolling up to the high Kaweka tops with lighter packs and well deserved sunny clear weather. But it was still a bit chilly in exposed areas, even a dribble of snow remaining. Peter found the energy to do a pilgrimage to Kaweka J.

It was a long way down to the delightful Makino Hut, then an even steeper drop down to Te Puia Lodge beside the mighty Mohaka River. Mangatainoka Hot springs lured us up river for our final night in the bush. Many others had the same idea, the Mohaka is a popular place despite the long drive in. The hot springs, recently renovated, provide a welcome hot bath. Then it was a leisurely stroll down valley to the "Blue gums" at the road end, to the rain and the crowds.

Thanks are owed to the DOC workers of the Kawekas, to our taxi drivers, and to all those participants who made this tramp a great one.

## ASPIRING COUNTRY 16-23 January by Peter Wiles

My aim was to return a book I had "borrowed" from French Ridge Hut on my visit in August. My strategy was to get down to Aspiring Hut from PN in one day. This is no mean feat and necessitates a fairly long day with no hitches. There is 4½ hours tied up with the ferry ordeal, plus 970 km of driving to cover and then 2 hours of walking into the hut to finish the day off. We left P.N. at 5 am and reached the road end in the West Matukituki Valley at 9.15 pm. The only events on the road to hamper our progress were moderate traffic and light rain down the Kaikoura

Coast followed by the exhaust pipe on my car parting company from the resonator half way down the Canterbury Plains. We had no option but to endure the noise for the remaining 1500 km of the trip!

Next morning we headed off up valley through patches of bush followed by grassy flats until we were beyond the turn off to French Ridge. We were heading up to Scotts Bivy (rock) on the way to Colin Todd hut on the western ridge of Mt Aspiring via the Bevan Col route. After an hour or so climbing up through the bush we emerged onto fairly open ground, crossed the river and began looking out for the bivy rock. Feeling rather tired after the previous days travel we found the rock around lunchtime and it was not before time. We moved into its accommodation. We also admired the general surroundings - most notably the ice falling regularly off the Breakaway area of the Bonar Glacier about 1000 m above and behind the bivy.

Rain started to fall late that afternoon. A feature of the bivy, according to the guidebook is that after substantial rain a stream can flow through it. It rained all night and all the next day and by the afternoon we began to understand the precise nature of this hydraulic phenomena. After some superficial and ineffective remedial action it became clear that a major engineering redesign of the living space was going to be necessary. We rebuilt the chamber so that the stream cantered down in a narrow channel along one side. Fetching water was now the least of our problems. Pat did an amazing job of cooking dinner sitting on a rock on one side of the stream with the burner on the other and with his feet in the stream in the middle.

The rain ceased during the night after about 30 hours and the morning was fine. The stream disappeared during the night and was now just a memory. This day was going to be the big one as far the walk in to Colin Todd Hut was concerned. Fortunately by the time we left the bivy in the morning the rain had ceased for long enough for the river to go down substantially and most of the waterfalls to return to a shadow of their former glory. We headed into open grassy ground towards the head of the valley before gaining the mouth of a narrow gut down which the river plunges in a cataract for about 200 m. Once in the bottom of the gut we should have stopped and taken stock of the situation and consulted the route guide. However we pressed on. We wanted to cross at the bottom (as the guide specifies) but we were thwarted as the water flow was too great. We grovelled up the gorge crossing once or twice and in one place passing out packs up using some prussic slings. Some rather unstable deposits of avalanche debris further complicated the route. About 2/3 of the way up the gorge, to make any further upwards progress, we found that we would have to climb up onto a small shelf over 20 m of steep rather smooth slabs, immediately followed by another 20 m lead to gain a small bench. We used the rope here with Lance doing a brilliant lead for the full 45 m length of the rope. While there was a good platform to belay from there was no possibility of an anchor. A piton would have been the answer but I don't bring any. At one stage I found the tips of my boots sliding off the minimal holds and briefly I found myself hanging on by my fingertips. Not good for the nerves. We hauled the packs up in stages with some effort. We continued hoping that we were past the worst of it. Fortunately we were and soon we emerged into a wide open basin with Hector Col at its head. After a rest and feed, we moved into the second phase of the route to Bevan Col - a further 600 m to climb. After a scramble up some rocky ground, a snow ramp and a sidle on scree onto the lower slopes of Mt Bevan, the ground got steeper as we worked our way up rather smooth ice ground rock. (Great for skateboards). The last 200 m was onto snow as we approached the col at 1850 m.

Quite suddenly Mt Aspiring came into full view as an immense asymmetrical triangle soaring into the clear sky out of an immense dazzling snow field of the Bonar Glacier. I have seen many photographs of Aspiring but I still was not mentally prepared for the impact the 3-dimensional view had on me. To describe it as breathtaking would be entirely appropriate.

From Bevan Col we gazed over the glacier and could not help being impressed with the thousands of crevasses criss-crossing it in a huge web. We were not sure how extensive the crevasses would be on the route to Colin Todd - about 2 km away and almost directly across the glacier. Rather to be safe than sorry, we roped up for glacier travel and plodded our way cross. The route looked easy and safe and I claimed I could see the hut. The "hut" turned out to be a rock and the crevasses although considerable in number were either trivial or easily avoided. We reached the hut at about 3 pm. We found that there was a party of 3 there, who we could see out on the Iso Glacier to the north.

This group turned out to consist of 2 Aussies with an American guide who was working with Geoff Wyatt's group.

The forecast for the next day was for a weak front to pass the south of the SI and for the winds above 2500 m to be gale force. When we went to bed the weather looked excellent and when we left the hut shortly after 5 am, the weather looked good except for some wind clouds over a couple of peaks to the south.

To tackle Aspiring, there are several routes. The most common and notorious is the ramp route on the southern (or Bonar side) of the north-west ridge. This can be avoided by doing some rock climbing / scrambling along the north-west ridge. Alternatively it is possible before the season is too advanced to use a snow route on the northern side of the same ridge. (There are many other more difficult routes depending on level of skill, risk endurance and conditions). We elected to have a look at the ridge (or Buttress Route). The first 300-400 m were gained by walking up a rocky spur. At the top of this we noted that the wind was much stronger than down at the hut

and very cold. The next section is along about 500 m of level ridge. The wind was so strong and cold that not only was rock climbing going to be out of the question, we had a desperate desire to get onto warmer ground. We could see the other group on the windy side trying to work their way towards the Ramp. We dropped over the northern side of the ridge and got out of the wind, reached the snow and put our crampons on. We thought we would now examine the northern snow route. Clearly it was not going to be easy as after walking past a number of large but easily avoided crevasses the route had to mount a very steep snow chute which was bound by ice cliffs on its left and uncertain ground on its right (hidden in a corner behind a rock bluff). Above lay a snow field and an immense schrund which might well have been difficult to cross. As we approached the bottom of the snow chute cloud began to build up rapidly and we became completely whited out. We had little choice at this stage but to abandon any further progress and get back to the hut before conditions deteriorated further. We were back at 8.30 am and the others arrived shortly after 11 am. Almost at the same time the mountain cleared but the wind remained.

By bedtime that evening the weather looked excellent again. When the alarm went, there was a slight wind blowing but more importantly it was clouded out above 2000 m. We stayed in bed, while the others packed up and left heading up the glacier into a whiteout for French Ridge. We felt rather cut off from the world and rather alone. (We had radio contact with the outside world, but if the weather did not clear by the next day we could have had a big problem getting to the ferry on time. Lance started on his 3rd or was it his 4th book for the trip and Pat after digesting 2 or 3 of the same found a crossword. I went for a walk in the late morning down the ridge below the hut for 200 -300 m to the bottom of the Iso Glacier and had a look at the terminal of a portion of the Bonar as well as a look down to the flats of the Waipara River about 1000 m below. The cloud rolled in and I returned to the hut. Rain started in the late evening and the wind rose impressively.

Shortly before dawn the front moved over, the wind dropped as did the temperature (down to freezing) and the cloud started to break up over the Bonar. We packed up and headed up the glacier following the tracks of the others where we could follow them. From a distance the route looked generally crevasse free but when actually on the ground, there were hundreds mostly inconsequential but some required care or evasion. After a slight navigational stuff up by me (again), we ended up having an early lunch over looking the Breakaway area - extremely broken up and impassable. We continued up the glacier until we reached the Quarterdeck at 2300 m. It was early afternoon and although the wind was strong and cold we walked along the ridge to the summit of Mt French. Here we sat for an hour waiting for the cloud to break around Aspiring but it did not. Instead we watched the shadows of the clouds racing across the Bonar neve. We estimated the wind speed at between 50 and 60 mph.

Then it was the start of the long downhill (1800 m down) to the river flats. We had a few more crevasses to negotiate down the Quarterdeck and I declared that was the end of them and packed the rope up. Less than 100 m further on came the big mother of them all. We crossed on the one remaining snow bridge. After a stop to admire Gloomy Gorge we continued down to French Ridge (Lucas Trotter) hut.

The transformation of the hut and its surroundings since my visit in August was amazing. The snow had gone, as had the dampness inside and the cold. The surroundings are magnificent here. If you should get tired of the view in one direction (difficult) you can just rotate a little and take in heaps more in another direction.

By evening the cloud had gone and it was obvious that tomorrow was going to be an excellent day (too bad for us). Shortly before we went to bed a young chap on his own arrived at the hut complete with Sony video camera. He could speak essentially no English and we learnt when we reached Aspiring Hut that he was from Germany. He was apparently obsessed with climbing Aspiring and in the morning set off for Colin Todd. Whether he knew anything about crevasses or had a map or compass we could not tell, but the warden at Aspiring Hut had tried to talk him out of going onto the Bonar.

In the morning we walked out for a late lunch in Wanaka and headed north to stay at Mt Somers before catching the ferry the following afternoon.

Team: Patrick Janssen. Lance Broad. Peter Wiles

PNTMC  
Box 1217  
Palmerston North

Postage Paid  
Permit Number  
286  
Palmerston North

**CLUB NIGHTS**

Greg Preston 'Climbing in Greenland'  
Clive Jones 'Climbing in Argentina'

DOC 'Conservation Management Strategy', by Andrew Spence, of the Wanganui Office. An audio visual presentation looking at management of the Conservation Estate.

PNTMC activities featuring Christmas in the Kaimanawas and Kawekas etc. Bring along your slides.

Bushcraft

AGM - End of March

**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 tramp 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) > 8 hrs. (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 Mick Leyland (358-3183).

**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 and 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 356-46551, or Brad Owen Ph 358-3467, or Lawson & Sue Pither Ph 357-3033.

**Club Officers for 92/93**

President: Tony Gates 357-0990 Secretary: Nigel Barrett 356-1568  
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: Mick Leyland 358-3183.

**P. N. Tramping & Mountaineering Club Inc.  
Six Month Event Calendar: January - June 93**

**JANUARY**

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
9-10	Maropea Forks	M/F	Mick Leyland	358-3183
17	Ohau-Makarutu Stream	M	Brad Owen	358-3467
16-17	Pourangaki	M	Paul Scheyvens	357-4138
Anniversary Weekend				
23-25	Bridge to Nowhere	E/M	Tricia Eder	357-0122
23-25 (or part there of)	Mt Taranaki	F?	Bruce Van Brunt	356-4217
30	Mitre (Taranuas)	M	Doug Strachan	357-5732
Club Night: Thursday 28th BBQ at ???				

**FEBRUARY**

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
6-7	Tararua Peaks	F	Mick Leyland	358-3183
13-14	N. Ruapehu lava fields	M	Peter Wiles	358-6894
	Whakapapa	Open	Pauline Coy	356-8782
21	Ohau Gorge	Wet/E	Daryl Rowan	356-4655
20-21	Kaweka Challenge	F	Perry Hicks	355-1393
	Weekend	M/F		
27	Rimutaka Crossing	E/M	Sue and Lawson	357-3033
27-28	Te Matawai	M	Brian Lawrence	324-8552

Club Nights: Thursdays 11th and 25th.

**MARCH**

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
7	Maharahara	E/M	Marcel Hollenstein	359-4212
6-7	Pinus Contorta	E/M	Perry Hicks	355-1393
14	Cattle Creek/Mid Pohangina	M	Paul Scheyvens	357-4138
National Walk Week 13-21				
13-14	Holdsworth	M	Pauline Coy	356-8782
21	Blue Range/Kiriwhakapapa	E	Jenny McCarthy	06-376-8838
21	Stanfield Hut	E	Mick Leyland	358-3183
20-21	Waterfall Creek	F	Peter Wiles	358-6894
28	Sunrise	E	Tricia Eder	357-0122
28	Te Atuaoparapara	M/F	Peter Stockdale	355-5277

Club Nights: Thursdays 11th and 25th.

**APRIL**

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
4	Herepai/East Peak	E/M	Chris Saunders	358-4899
4-5				
Easter Weekend				
9-12	Mt Taranaki	Open	Mike Johns	357-0122
18	Atene Skyline Walkway	M	Richard Lockett	323-6489
25	Rangi	E	Jenny McCarthy	06-376-8838
24-25	Howletts	M	Mary Craw	329-7868

Club Nights: Thursdays 15th and 29th.

**MAY**

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
2	Purity/Wooden Peg	M	Chris Saunders	358-4899
1-2	Upper Makaroro	M	Nigel Barrett	356-1568
9	Cattle Creek	M	Mick Leyland	358-3183
16	Fields	M	Kevin Pearce	357-02...
15-16	Waitewaiwai	E/M	Tricia Eder	357-0122
22	Makaretu	M/F	Daryl Rowan	356-4655
22-23	Top Gorge	E/M	Llew Pritchard	358-2217
29	Local	E	Liz Morrison	357-6532
29-30	Crow/McKinnon	M	Nigel Barrett	356-1568

Club Nights: Thursdays 13th and 27th.

**JUNE**

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
Queens Birthday				
5-7	Te Hekenga Crossing	M/F	Mick Leyland	358-3183
13	Stanfield/Takapari Rd	E/M	Tricia Eder	357-0122
20	Kime	M/F	Brian Lawrence	324-8552

Mid Winter  
27 Rangi?

Club Nights: Thursdays 10th and 24th.