



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC. P.O. BOX 1217 PALMERSTON NORTH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1996 Edition

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING 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.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A DAY TRIP MID-WEEK SEE DETAILS BELOW, OR RING Lawson and Sue Pither (357-3033), or Monica (326-9691), John (358-3513).

Trip Grades

Grade 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) >8 hrs. (Tech) refers to trips graded technical requiring either special skills and / or gear.

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.

Club meetings are held for all club members and visitors on the second and last Thursday of each month. The venue is the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North, at 7:45 pm unless otherwise notified in the newsletter. The PNTMC committee meets on the first Thursday of each month.

SCHEDULED EVENT LIST

Note: There has been some changes from what was on the trip card.

MARCH

MARCH 14 Club Night Rock climbing/Glacier Craft

Andy Backhouse will present an evening of video and talk on rockclimbing to follow on from the Titahi Bay trip and the Massy Rock wall visit.

There will be a video of British rockclimbing (with a bit of caving). This will discuss some the history of rockclimbing and the gear used as well as various techniques. He will have some gear to show you (nuts, stoppers, friends?)

Andi, together with Peter, will also give you a bit of an introduction to rope work for glacier travel and crevasse extraction, to help those of you who go on the Glaciercraft trip the following weekend. Should be an informative evening.

MARCH 16-17 Glaciercraft Tech Peter Wiles 358-6894
Depart: 6 am We will select either Saturday or Sunday depending on the weather prospects.

MARCH 17 Stanfield/Takapari M Jenny McCathy 06-376-8838
Depart: 8 am from Palmerston North, picking up Jenny, and any others, at Woodville, then heading to the West Tamaki roadend in the Eastern Ruahine Ranges. A stroll up a short section of the bush adjacent to the West Tamaki Stream, then a "slightly" steeper "stroll" up the ridge to the A Frame Hut on Takapiri Rd. From here Jenny will take: you north onto Takapari with plenty of good views all around. Picking up the "Lost Track to Takapari" (that's its name) she will bring you down to Stanfield Hut. The return to the roadend will be via the stream bed or another ridge. Come along, a good tramp will be had by all.

MARCH 20/21 Midweek tramping (Kapiti) Dug Wakeling 323-4127~

MARCH 22-24 Sunrise-Rangi F Postponed till April as Llew Prichard is tramping in the South Island at this time. Check up with Llew to find out which weekend this trip will now go. (358-2217)

MARCH 23 West Coast Beach walk E Kevin Pearce 357-0217
Depart: 4 pm Saturday afternoon. Home about 9 pm. Low tide is about 6.10 pm, the sun will set at 6.30 pm, Venus at 8.00 pm and the near new moon at 8.40 pm. Bring your dinner, wine, coffee mug, togs (optional) and towel. If wind and weather permit, we may light a fire to brown our pre-cooked sausages. The trip will go regardless of the weather -balmy or stormy.

MARCH 23-24 Whanganui Bay/TNP rockclimbing instruction Transferred to next weekend, March 30-31 and swapped with the Iron Gates trip

MARCH 24 Iron Gates E/M Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Note New Date and Leader (it was originally down for March 31)

Depart: 7:30 Always an enjoyable trip, this takes you to a part of the Western Ruahine Ranges. Up to Iron Gates Hut via the Oroua River and the all weather track, returning down the river right through Iron Gates Gorge - pack float the pools optional. This trip can be cut in half for an easy fun trip depending on who wants to come along.

MARCH 27 Wednesday day trippers David Warnock 357-4140

MARCH 28 Club Night Wine & Cheese and AGM

This is the Annual General Meeting of your club, the Palmerston North Tramping & Mountaineering club so it would be great to see all members come along. To encourage you to come along it is proceeded with a Wine and Cheese. Election of the following positions will take place: Patron, President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, General Committee members, Auditor. So think about who you would like to see in these positions, to effectively run the club for the next 12 months. See later in Newsletter for details.

MARCH 30-31 Rockclimbing Instruction Tech Andy Backhouse 353-0774

Note New Date Depart: 6:30 Friday night for Mangatepopo Hut at Tongariro National Park.

Climbing for this weekend of instruction and practice will be either: in the Mangatepopo Valley; or at Whanganui Bay on the western shore of Lake Taupo; or one of the other areas about Lake Taupo. It will be a good follow up to the Massy rock wall, Titahi Bay and Andy's recent club night. All levels of climbing possible, so be in regardless of your experience. Club gear will be available if you haven't been able to borrow any. Contact Andy for details.

MARCH 30-31 South Mitre, Park River FE **Postponed**, contact Derek Sharp 326-8178 for date and details.

APRIL

APRIL 4 Midweek tramping Cath Little 329-8608

APRIL 4 Committee meeting This is the first committee meeting for the newly elected committee and officers. All club members welcome to attend.

Easter

APRIL 5-8 Kaweka Range M+F Alistair Millward 356-9612

Depart: Friday morning. Heading to Kuripapango west of Hastings. We will head into the southern and eastern areas, including the Ngaruroro River, the Main Range and Kaweka J. This will be a fly camping trip to avoid any others in the area. Known for its fine Easter weather and easy walking this area is a real treat for those who are

used to the mud and wet of the Tararua Ranges. Depending on numbers the trip may be split into medium and medium/fit trips, so phone Alistair early.

Day trip Easter Egmont climb M/F Warren Wheeler 356-1998
Depart: 6 am Sunday or whatever day sounds like having the best weather. The route will be via Stratford to the Plateau car park, then: East Ridge - Sharks Tooth - summit, and return. Variations up or down are optional. Anybody want to overnight under a full moon on the summit? (Note; by definition Easter always has a full moon or near full moon)

APRIL 10-11 Midweek tramping John Rockell 358-3513

APRIL 11 Club Night Climbing in Europe Don French
Don, a past member of our club and a current member of the NZ Alpine Club, is a very active climber. (He is now living in Wanganui.) He will present a well illustrated evening of his exploits in the climbing areas of Europe. Come along for an enjoyable evening. And for those lucky ones; get enthused on peaks to climb, or look at, when you go on your (next) trip to Europe.

APRIL 13-14 Oturere- Ketetahi M Warren Wheeler 356-1998
Note New Date This trip has been bought forward from May 4-5, and swapped with Dennis Moore's trip to Ruahine Corner. Depart: 7 am There are various options to explore this part of Tongariro : National Park. Plan A; Mangatepopo, up the west side of Ngauruhoe and down the east, off the south rim of Oturere Crater, and down to Oturere Hut for the night. Next day up out of the Crater and up to Emerald Lakes, then to Ketetahi hot springs, then over the summit of Tongariro and return to the cars. Plan B; it's in the pipeline.

APRIL 13 Maharahara-Coppermine F Derek Sharp 326-8178
Depart to pick Derek up at Ashhurst at 7 am. Join Derek for a sharp Saturday, stroll through the (? non)-leatherwood bashing parts of the Ruahine Ranges, grand views (steep grunt), lots of variety (up-down-up-down. ..), rockhopping downstream (slip/slide), magnificent forest (impenetrable bush), communicating with nature (lunch on a rock under a tree, in a stream, with the birds).

EDITORIAL

I am shortly leaving for England...my big OE. Three weeks away in fact. My first time anywhere away from NZ except for Australia. Am I getting excited? Yes. Worried? A bit. Many people have told me horror stories of tramping overseas...the crowds of people, housed in chateaux, transported in cable cars and trains...no feeling at one with nature unless you can avoid the hundreds of people standing around you doing the same thing. Jo in my lab told me a story about how she and her husband climbed to the top of Mt Canaerion in Wales and were surprised and delighted at the lack of people at the top. They went over the other side to escape the wind and found huge numbers of people...they had come up on a train on the other side! This seems to be a fairly common story and not something I'm really looking forward to.

The one thing I enjoy about tramping here is the quiet. The back to basic feeling of being away from lawnmowers, streetlights, heavy metal on my brothers stereo, the TELEVISION!!! An immense part of my wilderness experiences is the solitude, the lack of other people and the machinations of society. What I love so much about the outdoors here is exactly what I won't have overseas.

And yet it is this overcrowding of wilderness areas overseas that have lead to the search for good management and administration policies that will overcome the problems created by too many people in too small an area. Restriction of numbers in each area, education of people in outdoor common sense, booking ahead for time on tracks and in huts, user pays strategies to make the money stay where it is needed.

Although I dislike the idea of this as much as any other NZer, in many places overseas these are the realities of life and these strategies serve to make the outdoor experience an enjoyable one for everyone. This is still an unwelcome future for us in NZ ...with our lack of population making it hard for us to overcrowd large areas of NZ national parks. But with tourist numbers rising and with 70% of them expected to visit at least one national park, these strategies may sometime have to be incorporated into our own outdoor lifestyle.

Appreciate your peaceful wilderness while you have it and think of me braving the crowds.

As this is probably the last communication I will have with the tramping club for a number of years I would like to take the opportunity to thank those I have tramped with in the PNTMC....there has been some great trips and some good memories to take away with me. Lying on the ground looking at the stars (in my case imagining where they would be) beside Waterfall hut, building snowpeople outside Barker hut, beating everybody at skimming stones (PJD...anytime anywhere bud), impromptu rock climbing at Oturere, climbing Rolleston(!) are just some I can think of offhand.

May your weekends be sunny {I'm taking the rain cloud with me) and your views worth the effort.
Bridget

NOTICES

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PNTMC

This will be held on the club night Thursday March 28 after the Wine and Cheese which begins at 7:45 pm at 227 College St (usual time and place). Election of club officers and general committee members will take place.

Nominations are required for the following positions:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer,
General Committee members {six or more would be good}, Auditor, Patron. Put your nominations in, on a slip of paper (name of person you are nominating, your name as proposer, and name of a seconder) to a Club Officer or Committee member, hopefully before the night.

So think about who you would like to see in these positions, to effectively run the club for the next 12 months. Are there any issues you think need bringing up on the evening? If you can't attend please get your apologies passed on to the Secretary.

Changes of Address

Phillip Brown	50 Pascal St	phone no.	same as before
Kevin Mansell	50 Pascal St	phone no.	same as before
Adam Fort	27 Short St, Tauranga	phone	(07) 576-7193
Trevor Meyle	now C/- MTC, Burnham Camp, Christchurch.		

Instructors from Snowcraft I, II, and III last year

Those people who instructed on any of the Snowcraft Courses last year can claim a small part refund towards their expenses from those weekends. This is due to funding from the Hillary Commission for Recreation and Sport in the form of a subsidy, for those involved with the promotion and teaching of outdoor skills at club levels. Contact Terry if you were instructing on any of the three weekends (phone him on 356-3588 or see him at the next club night). Or if you like leave things as they are and convert the small refund into a donation to the club to help it promote more expertise in outdoor skills.

THURSDAY TRIPS

Overdue contacts: Sue and Lawson Pither (357-3033) and Trish Edeln (357-0122).

SUNHATS

Yes. We are placing another order for club monogrammed caps (10). Obviously limited supplies so if you are looking for something unique for the New Year, these could be the ideal gift.

CLUB T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

The club still has a number of T-shirts with the clubs modified logo on them. Colour and sizes are: SM blue, M red and fawn. This is your last chance to buy one of these as the club is about to change over to marketing Club sun hats. T-shirts are at the bargain price of \$5 – see Terry at club night or phone him on 3563-588.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING November

If you are unable to make it or expect to be late, please ensure that your apology is forwarded to the secretary in advance. Next meeting at ??? place. All members welcome.

TRIP REPORTS

Don't forget (leaders) please get your trip reports in or use your short lived powers to delegate to an unsuspecting team member. How about a letter to the editor, perhaps, or some good gossip, or a poem or what ever. Electronic copy is the most convenient. This newsletter is prepared using Wordperfect. So I can retrieve any material in Wordperfect format (version 5, 5.1, 5.2 or 6, in either DOS or Windows). If you use Microsoft Word or a MAC, then I need an ASCII (or DOS text file) version. With a MAC, you will need a DOS formatted disc. I can only handle 3½ inch discs.

TRIP DECISIONS?

If you decide you want to go on a trip, please ensure that you have contacted the leader by the Wednesday before, so that logistical decisions can be made. Recently, there have been some instances of people expressing an interest in a trip on the evening before - the leaders in some cases, having made other plans at that late stage.

THE PNTMC ANNUAL AWARDS FOR 1995

This is the second year that the PNTMC has recognised the accomplishments of certain club members. Most of these accomplishments could be described as embarrassing and I'm sure that those who received the awards would rather forget the whole experience. However such impressive acts deserve to be published and recorded forever in the club archives.

1: THE MILLS AND BOON AWARD FOR THE LONGEST TRIP REPORT.

There should be no surprises who this award went to, yes the author of that epic trip to Mt Aspiring, Dr Bruce Van Brunt. Comprising of many, many volumes, he kept us all engrossed with such intricate details of his every step. Seriously though, it made excellent reading.

2: THE FIND OF THE CENTURY.

"Great news folks" said Peter Wiles at the last committee meeting, "I've managed to locate the whereabouts of the Club photo album and scrap book"! Naturally 'we were all extremely pleased to have finally located these elusive treasures of the clubs history after many years of searching. Then someone asked "Where did you find them?" and Peter's sheepish reply was "Actually they were in my possession all along." So congratulations to Peter, who is going to find it rather hard to edit his way out of this one!

3: MOST HAIR RAISING ACCENT.

Bridget Douglas claims this prize for her encounter with an electrical storm on the brew. If the sound of ice axes buzzing in the static electricity was not enough to warn you that this was not the place to be, then the sight of Bridget's hair standing on end should have you worried. I'm sure Bridget was not too happy about the whole experience either, however she did get a prize for her troubles.

4: PERSON YOU WOULD BE LEAST LIKELY TO LEND GEAR TO.

Let me give you some advice, if Derek Sharp ever asks to borrow some of your gear, think long and hard before you lend any to him. You see, the reason that Derek would want to borrow anybody's gear is because he has lost all of his. On one trip alone he managed to lose 1 glove, 1 boot inner, 1 climbing helmet, and 1 Ice Hammer! Alistair Millward came a close second to Derek by managing to lose his helmet and Ice Hammer on the same trip! Derek was unable to be at the Barbecue because he lost the directions to Brian's place.

5: THE DAVID HODGES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE FIELD OF FORGETFULNESS.

During winter, a club trip was to be held at Rangitoto hut for all those keen on giving Cross country Skiing a go. A good response meant that gear was limited and had to be well organised, which was no problem for the master of organisation, Tony Gates. So it was off to the upper slopes of the Whanahuia Range in excellent conditions for hours of Skiing, there was one small problem though, all the Ski poles had been left behind.

6: COVERGIRL OF THE YEAR.

This award went to Alan Bee for his extremely well posed photo on the cover of Wilderness magazine. Alan was standing on Ngauruhoe with an erupting Ruapehu in the background. The photo was somewhat similar to one in another magazine of John Phillips, but Alan's stunning green longjohns, as opposed to John's hairy legs, clinched him the prize.

7: MOST PERSISTENT TRAMPER:

As many people find out with the PNTMC, our trips tend to be a bit more demanding than what one was expecting. So when Heather Partell decided to cross Maharahara (her first tramp in NZ), 8 hours of Steep, muddy track in horrible weather would have been the last thing she was expecting. Her recovery took a painful 2 weeks, then she was off again, this time to Sunrise for a genuine Easy / Medium Tramp. True persistence, or is it Masochistic?

8: BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

For the past few years Monica Cantwell has been going round town putting up advertising posters for the club. This task has been performed very well, but now Monica has outdone herself with some ingenious thinking. Not only do we have human trampers in the club now, but our Canine friends have also established themselves as a permanent part of the club, thanks to Monica and Rosemary (Monica's dog).

9: MOST EFFECTIVE SELF ARREST.

The club was extremely proud of the success of the 1995 Snowcraft courses and we instructors felt we could give ourselves a pat on the back for doing a fine job. Soon after Snowcraft 3, 6 people did a winter crossing of the Ruahines Via Sawtooth ridge. One of the members was fresh from the above mentioned Snowcraft courses, a certain Nigel Scott, who upon nearly reaching the icy summit of Tiraha lost balance and started to fall. The other party members looked on with morbid fascination, sure in the knowledge that Nigel was now proficient with self arrest. However hand in hand with a successful self arrest is successfully managing to stop, which Nigel wasn't doing! In fact it was only when he reached soft snow some 100 meters from the point of fall that he managed to come to a halt.

That's all the prizes for 1995, there will be more next year when, who knows, maybe you might find yourself with a prize. Have a great New Year.
Nigel Barrett.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PHOTOALBUM

Got a spare photo or two of your trip? Then drop them into Tony to add to the photo album. We need to preserve snaps of our trips.

ADVERTISEMENTS

BUSHCRAFT COURSE at QE College. QE College are running a couple of bushcraft courses as part of their nightclass series. 7 nights plus field trip. One beginning April 23, the other October 1. Phone 3591-592 (mornings best) for info.

ROCK CLIMBING TRIP TO YOSEMITE May this year.

Warwick White and Jon Rosemergy (Alpine Club and/or NZOIA instructors) from Wellington, are organizing a rockclimbing trip to Yosemite Valley, May 16 -28 this year. Both have spent a season or more at Yosemite before. Apparently this is not a money making venture. For details phone either Warwick 044771-420, or Jon 044795891.

TRIP REPORTS

Bruce Van B and Andy Backhouse climbed Cook on February 15 (or theirabouts). They also attempted Tasman but the snow conditions were hopeless. More details later.

EXPLORING THE CASCADE RED HILLS REGION by Peter Wiles

Although it was fine in Hokatika, as we drove south the showers became heavier and more protracted. We arrived at the Cascade road end before 4 pm and had a chat (and cup of tea) with the ranch manager. He gave us a lot of confusing route information as well as telling us that the SAS had just completed an exercise in the area. We drove back up the road 2 or 3 km, organised our gear and headed over the ridge into the wet scrub and bush. The river was up (which means uncrossable) so we had to investigate the route up the true right or eastern side of the river. Fortunately the rain eased for the first few hours of the trip. We emerged from the first gorgy section of the river onto the start of the ensuing flat at about 8 pm and pitched camp in the rain and sandflies.

It rained on and off all night. There was no let up in the morning. We got going at about 8 am and headed up the grassy flats dodging patches of bush and scrub. The first major side stream, Woodhen Creek, was rather large i.e. by no means easy to cross, still we intended to head up this stream (river?) for 2 -3 km before crossing it and then heading cross country through the bush to avoid the middle gorge of the Cascade which would ordinarily be negotiated on the true left by making use of the Road (Charley Douglas' road of the late 1890's). Plodding up the Creek was miserable as the rain bucketed down at times and there seemed the distinct prospect that the creek was going to cut into a bluff and cut us off. However the latter problem did not eventuate - but we still had to cross. The further up we went the steeper the valley and the swifter the water. Opposite our turnoff point we considered one possibility and decided - no go. Things were looking most dismal. We discussed heading back to the main river and camping and waiting for the water to subside either in the creek or the river. A hundred meters further on, however, we noticed the creek cut through some uprooted trees. Would a logbridge save 'the day? The prospects did not look very good. It was the only thing that was going to save us from a wet depressing day. Like a miracle, the tangle of logs provided a safe-ish crossing. We entered the bush on a compass bearing, sidled around a small lake and worked our way up a small creek. This route is somewhat unorthodox. In fact the number of people who have ever been through this particular neck of the woods is probably very few. After a further 2 km (and a couple of hours) we crossed a low saddle and had lunch. Another km down the stream on the other side (through more bush) brought us out at the main river again and the odd patch of sun! We still were not fully clear of the middle gorge, however, so we had a mixture of wading in the edge of the river and following trails along the bush edge. In more rain we reached the next major side stream - McKay Creek. This was easier to cross but we had to hunt up stream a few hundred metres before finding a favourable spot. We then headed to a patch of bush in the middle of the valley that I had visited the previous year. We set up camp - again in the rain - though not too bad.

The showers continued next morning but by lunchtime they eased. We decided to do a reconnaissance trip up as far as the next major side stream - Falls Creek. Opposite Falls Creek (on the other side of the river) the aim was to climb out of the valley up to the Gorge Plateau. The Plateau provides access to the Red Hills proper. The key to the Red Hills therefore lay in finding a favourable crossing of the river - no crossing no Red Hills. Before heading off to inspect the area up to Falls Creek, we inspected the crossing that I had used the previous year - in the patch of bush behind the tent about a third of the river cut through in a narrow channel and there were some very good trees up rooted - providing easy crossing of the channel. A short walk took us to inspect the crossing of the remaining 2/3. Any crossing we might find up stream had to be better than this. We recrossed the logs and headed up stream. We negotiated several back waters in the river and nearly opted to try crossing at a point where the river was very wide - but we chickened out - probably wisely. We examined the extensive Mistletoe growths on the beech trees - something very seldom seen in the North Island because of Opossum predation. We determined that there was nothing better than the crossing near our camp and then returned back to camp. Before getting dinner going we re-inspected the crossing point and attempted the remaining 2/3 section. A third of the way across we abandoned it and decided that assuming that it remained fine overnight we would cross first thing in the morning as the river would have dropped further.

We finished dinner about 7 pm, when the rain resumed and continued all night. We ignored the alarm and did not even bother to inspect the state of the river - there was no way it was going to have gone down. That put the end to the practicalities of reaching the Red Hills in 1996. About 7 or 8 am the rain eased and gradually the sun emerged.

Only a few minutes of sun made the inside of the tent too hot so we were forced outside. Sitting feeding the sandflies was not a preferred option, so we decided to do a day trip to Mt Raddle. Mt Raddle lies on the eastern side of the Cascade and like the Red Hills forms part of the red rock (Ultramafic belt) that is the geological feature of the area. Consequently, like the Red Hills, it has very little vegetation growing on it. We got going about 11 am and crossed the wide river flats by wading up a stream and started the 1100 m climb. Initially, the going was quite steep as we had a section of bluffs to ascend - bisected by a series of waterfalls. The very coarse red rock almost immediately gave us much to grip on. We still had some scrub to negotiate but after climbing about 400 m we were mostly on clear open rock. We had lunch overlooking our camp far below. We continued up to some tarns and Terry and I continued while Barry botanised. We reached the top at 5 pm and it was well worth it. We could see much of the ultramafic belt, the Olivine Range, the Red Hills and Gorge Plateau just across the valley, the weird plant associations, the fault contact zones, the sea and much more. But we had to reach our camp before dark: there was not much time to waste and the clouds could easily produce more rain.

No further rain fell during the night and next morning we packed up, crossed the river (which had dropped a few centimetres) and headed down valley. (We wanted to complete a loop by travelling along both sides of the river.) At the start of the middle gorge we climbed up about 120 m and reached the Road. This we followed for about 2-3 hours before having lunch on the river below the gorge and then continued mostly on the Road for another hour or two. (The road is a benched strip about 1.5 m wide now of course very over grown as it probably has not been cleared for the best part of a century.)

After following a backwater we arrived at the bush edge in glorious sun and crossed a major channel of the river to an island and then continued at its far end to complete the crossing. After another 1-2 km of open ground we recrossed before climbing up onto a bushed terrace and resumed our journey on the Road. We had just re-encountered the road when we discovered the Magnetic Anomaly of the Cascade. Terry asked what seemed a stupid question (for such) a competent navigator - "Which direction does the red end of the compass needle point?" "Red points north" "Why?" "Well according to mine, we are now heading south". But it's about 5 pm and the sun is in the west at this time of day. I got my compass out. "Yes my red end is pointing south too!?" "After a few experiments we discovered that we were standing in the middle of an area of about 10 m diameter which had a magnetic field sufficiently strong to swamp the normal field and was rotated 180° away from normal north. Nothing on the ground appeared abnormal but something substantial was buried directly below us. Treasure?! Here lies the spot! We left an orange tape on a tree and continued. The Mystery of the Magnetic Anomaly shall remain.

After another couple of hours of rather tedious plodding along the Road we negotiated a swamp for about 0.5 km and then emerged on the river at the Bend. We crossed, but I took a line that I thought I had used last year and after crossing 3/4 of the way found myself getting into progressively deeper water (its clarity is very deceptive). It was up to my waist and only 20 m to the bank, so I continued. Up to my chest now. Oh shit! Ten metres to the bank. I have lost the bottom! Meanwhile, Terry and Barry could see the situation and wisely sidled downstream closer to the rapids where the depth remained little over knee high. At the far side, some emerged wetter than others. It was 8 pm (a 12 hour day) and although we were about half an hour from the road (and a hut) we opted to camp beside the river.

We still had two days to go, so one option was to head down the river to the coast at Barn Bay. Examination of the map suggested another possibility however. Head back to Jackson's Bay (In the car) and do a short overnight loop to Stafford and Smoothwater Bays.

ARETE LOOP - 6 January 1995 by Alistair Millward

Some would consider it a worthy challenge. Others would consider it a crazy and masochistic thing to do. No matter what you think, there is no denying that the walk from Putara road end to Herepai Hut, along to Bannister, along Cattle Ridge and back to the road end in one day is a long way. It was so far that the four intrepid, or should that be stupid, trampers camped the night at Putara and started walking at 3:30am. I almost turned back at an early stage but stupidity prevailed and I continued. Walking in the early morning is supposed to be cool but the humidity denied us that pleasure this morning. By Herepai we were all rather warm and drinking to compensate. The secret to success was to drink lots and between Herepai and Cattle Ridge Hut we each were carrying at least 4.5 litres of water or electrolyte.

Herepai peak and Ruapae disappeared in a blur as we motored up onto the tops. There were some navigational problems at East Peak, which was further along the ridge than first thought, but we weren't complaining about the mist, it kept us cool. By the huge saddle between East and West peak everyone had settled down to a nice, steady plod that each thought he could hold for the next fourteen or so hours. The tramp along the Dundas Ridge is a delightful one with nice rocky tops to walk on. We reached the turnoff to Bannister after 9 hours and the comment was made "Only another fit tramp to go and we'll be there!"

Climbing onto Bannister, Warren was slowed by taking some photos. While eating lunch on the Twins the rest of us met another mad group trying to do all the 5,000 ft peaks in a weekend. Now there's a good idea for another trip. Their secret was small packs and running shoes while ours was lots of water and take it steadily. The climb along Bannister ridge and up to Waingawa seemed to take ages but we were then onto Cattle Ridge and speeded up a little. Nigel reckoned he knew Cattle Ridge and very quickly announced that we were at Pukekeno saddle. We had

to dive down off the ridge at a certain compass bearing and after 15 minutes descent, a long time wandering around in the leatherwood and 20 minutes ascent we were back where we started and it wasn't Pukekeno saddle at all. That added an hour of extra work onto an already huge day but I'm sure we will all pay Nigel back with similar treatment at some stage, even if we don't want to. We made Cattle Ridge hut and dined on Warren's sardines and cheese. The rest of us were really sick of chocolate and energy foods by then.

The Descent to Roaring Stag Lodge is very steep and was hard on already tired knees. A tendon in the back of my knee was giving some trouble at this stage. We then split up for the long steady climb to the Herepai turnoff. Derek and Nigel disappeared ahead while Warren and I kept to our steady pace. We met them at the turnoff and did the descent in the dark together. We were back at the carpark by 11:00 and crashed into our sleeping bags without even bothering to cook dinner. There was some discussion on reviving the tongue and meats reputation. Breakfast the next morning consisted of pies and ice creams from a Pahiatua petrol station.

Here are some statistics for the trip

Distance travelled	31.85 km
Vertical height climbed and lost	3040 metres
Time taken	19.5 hours (minus 1.5 hours for navigational blunders and long stops.)
Average speed	1.6 km/h

Warren thinks that anyone could do this walk if they set their mind to it, and took it slowly. Perhaps we will have some more takers if we do this trip again.

NORTH RANGE RD BY MOUNTAIN BIKE December 3 by Stuart Hubbard

Ian's ute delivered us and our trusty steeds to the Pahiatua Track -North Range Rd junction. A fine warm day which just kept getting hotter! Some good views of Palmerston North and Ashhurst before dropping down to Ballance Reserve by the Gorge for a spot of lunch. The stretch back through Ballance and up the other side of the Pahiatua Track was long hard, hot slog, with tar melting on the road. A great ride.

So dust of those mountain bikes for the Takapari Road trip on the 3rd of March. Range Riders were Ian Rasmussen, Stuart Hubbard, Terry Crippen.

ORUAKERATAKI December 10 by Stuart Hubbard

Oruakeritaki is a pleasant valley in the South-Eastern Ruahine Ranges just a couple of valleys up from Coppermine Creek. Having two cars we dropped one off at the Kumeti Road end and departed from the end of Fairbrothers Rd, following a poled route until we reached the Oruakerataki Stream. We had an early lunch up at the Kiritaki Hut, before dropping back down to the stream again and a hot climb up to Matanginui, (1074m), where we intersected the Maharahara Crossing track. Stuart was having acute hayfever by this stage and had gulped down about six tablets before the trip was over. Great views were had of the Hawkes Bay area before dropping down to the Kumeti Road end. Those present were Terry Crippen Diane Assen, Kath Lyttle, Dave Larsen, Stuart Hubbard.

ARTHURS PASS SUMMER January 6-19 by Terry Crippen

This summer six of us went on the club trip in the Arthurs Pass area. An eight day trans-alpine tramp, two days for more climbing based at Arthurs Pass village, and the odd rest day. The trip started with a range of transport to get us to Arthurs Pass township: Bus to Wellington, ferry to Picton (and accommodation and running round by Judy, a member of the Christchurch Tramping Club), then shuttle bus, with a 4 am start to get the troops into good habits, to Arthurs Pass.

The trans-alpine trip was a clockwise loop starting from the Waimakirri River going over a number of high passes/cols, climbing some peaks in route, and finishing at the Otira pub. When we arrived at Arthurs Pass Village, a quick sort out of party food and gear, doing our intentions with DOC, and a taxi van down to Klondyke Corner on the eastern side of the National Park saw us tramping up the Waimak. in the afternoon.

Packs were a bit heavy for these first few hours (days) but the river flats are excellent to start a trip on. Carrington Hut was a welcoming sight, with a few other trampers about and excellent sunset views of the peaks surrounding us.

Day 2 With another crack-of-dawn start we headed round into the white Valley, and headed up towards Barker Hut in front of the White Glacier and Mt Murchison (our first climbing objective). There was a lot of earthquake and snow avalanche damage in the valley from recent events; very large rock falls and recently eroded out gullies. We arrived at the hut for a relaxed lunch before some of us headed up to the White Col area (1760m) to check out a high camp site and a route down into the Burnet for the following day. This procedure (checking out high crossings etc the afternoon/evening before) is very helpful, especially when the weather deteriorates the following day. It's also great to scramble about for a while without heavy packs. Once we had found a good site for the tents and found a continuous snow route down through the bluffs into the Burnet we cruised back to the hut for a bit of relaxation and an early dinner before all heading up to camp for the night.

Day 3 The high camp and an early start made an ascent of Mt Murchison (the highest peak in the National Park, at 2408m) an easy morning climb. A short 500m up the White Glacier to Kahutea Col then a couple of

different routes onto the summit. Gary decided on a direct loose rock approach, while the rest of us used a clockwise spiral snow, bergshcrund and rock approach for the last 100 m. Then a rapid descent to our camp, a quick pack up and a slower descent down the 500m of quite steep snow into the head of the Burnet. Easy travel then occupied the rest of a 12 hour day as we headed down to the infrequently used Weka Biv near the confluence of the Burnet and the wide open Wilberforce. Checking out the hut book we noted that one of the few parties to pass through was a PNTMC party of Kevin Pearce and Eric van Toor about xx years ago.

Day 4. Down to the Wilberforce and a number of new style river crossings saw us at Urquarts Hut. This hut is possibly 100 years old, from the days when there was gold mining further up the Wilberforce (there is a 1000m drive into the slopes of Mt Marion), and then when Brownings Pass was a stock route over to the West Coast. Again the hut book had some PNTMC content; Catherine Farquhar, myself and others had passed through that way in '81. Continuing up valley we discovered more evidence of early days; a wheel of a gold ore crusher and pieces of the "road". Park Morpeth was our destination for the night and as it's on the popular Three Pass Trip route there were others about.

Day 5 This was on a section of the Three Pass Trip route, up and over Whitehorn Pass down to Ariels Tarns. Here we decided to set up camp for the night. This gave us plenty of time to investigate a route directly up and over the Mt Campbell summit ridge into the head of the Campbell valley for the following day. We all climbed up to the Divide, and sighted the best route down the other side. Some of us traversed along to the westernmost peak of Mt Campbell for good measure.

Day 6 Our footsteps and reconnaissance from the day before paid off as we had poor visibility crossing into the Campbell. Campbell Pass is hardly noticed from this direction but drops steeply into Tumbledown Creek, a tributary of the Taipo, a West Coast river. Actually for those who are into geomorphology Gorgy Creek, where we were heading, is the beheaded part of Campbell Creek; captured by Tumbledown Creek. Likewise Hunt Creek (where we would be a couple of days later) is the beheaded part of Kellys Creek, again captured by another tributary of the Taipo. No wonder the West Coast Rivers are rough going and bad at times, if they go round beheading more sedate Canterbury streams!

Gorgy Creek involved some rock gymnastics to climb out of the small gorge then a long slog up to the shelves above the lake, at 1500m, to find the best campsite. While the others set up camp and got dinner ready, Nigel and I climbed up to a unnamed col overlooking the head of Hunt Creek to check out a possible route down to the Hunt. The original plan was to spend a couple of days at our high camp, do some climbing and exit out via a higher route into the Rolleston Valley, but the weather was obviously deteriorating so the Hunt seemed the best option.

Day 7 Plenty of rain and wind began to arrive in the early hours of the morning so dawn was without a perfect sunrise and without an early start. Was this to be our rest day? No such luck. After cups of tea and muesli were passed from tent to tent it was all bodies out, in full storm gear, to keep the fitness up, building stone walls and digging drainage ditches around the tents. Just in case the weather got real bad? And there is nothing worse than just lazing about in the pit! Anyhow, perhaps all this hard work made the weather improve slightly, since by lunchtime the wind had dropped, so we broke camp, leaving a well made campsite for future use. We headed up and over to Hunt Creek, and down to Hunts Hut.

Day 8 Our day to head out to the Otira Pub. Bridget suggested that a route over the Barron Ridge was more direct than Hunt Saddle, Kelly Creek. I added that we would only have a 2 km stroll down the road instead of 4km walk up the road to get that first drink. We decided that we would get excellent views from the top. So seeing we had had an easy day the day before we all agreed on the up and over route. But as you can guess it was definitely the longest in time! The route down, once we found it, was a very very steep overgrown/washed out "track". In fact the DOC sign at the bottom said 3 hours up to the top of Mt Barron, it took us nearly four hours to descend and we had started from well below the summit! Oh well we still got to the pub and eventually back to Arthurs Pass and the NZ Alpine Club Hut.

The following Days These were spent eating, drinking, relaxing and doing our washing. And we also had an enjoyable but long day traversing Mts Philistine and Rolleston from a camp in the upper Otira Valley. This is an excellent traverse mainly on rock, but with the option of some steep snow towards the high peak of Rolleston. Coming off the high peak, Gary "investigated", using gravity and self arrest skills, how close he could get to the bergschund around the top of the Crow Glacier! As a result of this activity we decided we should do a bit of rope work to get us across the slot. Once across the Crow it was over to the Otira slide for a range of descent methods down its 500 m of steepish snow. Once we had got back to our camp site and un-hidden all our overnight gear from the Kea-proof hide it was out to the road for the long walk back to town in the dark. Long walk for Gary that is. He unfortunately missed a lift on the back of a ute, as he was in the scrub fixing up his boots. There were some choice comments when he finally arrived at the hut well after us.

The next day saw us doing short walks to the bushline from the village, more eating and relaxing, before the final and longest day of the trip: Bus to Christchurch, dinning out, cruising the streets, the late night pictures, a coffee or two, about an hours sleep at Ron's friends place, sorting out our gear at the airport at 4 am and the 'Red Eye' flight back to Palmerston North, arriving here at 6 am!

The six of us where: Ron DeRose, Gary DeRose, Bridget Douglas, Adam Fort, Nigel Scott, and Terry Crippen.

WAIKAREMOANA TRIP - 3-6 FEBRUARY

After last minute cancellations only 4 left on Friday for this trip. Kath and Dave travelled up during the day and Graham and myself drove up into the night. We eventually met up at the Aniwanuiwa Camp site – under the beech trees in perfect weather and looking forward to two or three days on the Lake Track, each party of 2 starting at either end and swapping car keys mid-way. We were the first in the DOC queue to get our Great Walk passes - \$6 per night for hut or tent site - and headed in our respective directions at about 8.30 am. Graham and I started with the steady climb up to Panekiri Bluff. Overcast skies and a cooling breeze made for nice going and after bumping into a few others coming or going we reached Panekiri Hut for lunch on the veranda with the wind gong right over the top of us and cloud hanging onto the tops of the ranges west a north and clear views to the coast. Unfortunately our day did not include staying here for the sunrise and set but we could take some comfort that in these conditions they would be non-events anyway - unlike when Kath and Dave stayed there on their outward journey.... I could recommend it for New Year 2000. The Waiopaoa Hut looked just fine so we called it quits and dumped gear and clothes for a swim in the warm inlet. Lake levels were about 2m higher than normal after prolonged rain. This meant some unusual experiences - standing in water up to our armpits on drowned grass; and, further along the track, walking across a flooded swing bridge (although on tiptoes only one Ashlea gummie let a bit of water over the top).

Day two. Waiopaoa to Wanganui Inlet. This goes around the western side of the lake on a track which goes up and down through the forest and in and out around the numerous inlets and bays. After a one hour diversion to visit the picturesque Korokoro Falls and checking out the almost flooded out campsite we met up with Kath and Dave who had walked right in to a crowded...Hut, and elected to camp instead. We agreed that we would meet up and go over to sandy Bay on Waikareiti if we were feeling up to it. A quiet lunch in the sunshine at...was shattered by the arrival of the Hastings Jet Boat Club who soon filled the excellent camp shelter-cum-kitchen for their picnic. Despite the hot day the dip in the little inlet here was somewhat brief due to the cold stream fed water which we found out persisted right along this shore. Hunters at Te Puna Hut complained of a sleeping bag being stolen while they had been away for a morning shoot...you can't trust anyone...We met the dreaded school group we had heard were about - crammed into a little lakeside camping area with tents pitched everywhere including the track!! A hunter at Wanganui Hut caught a couple of possums in his two-traps just outside the hut - two down, 68,999,998 to go. Surprisingly there was plenty of room at the hut with only one other group of three turning up to join the hunters family and mate, who were based there, and us.

Day Three. Another nice fine day. Walked out the hour to the road end across the new footbridge and meandered back to Waikaremoana Camp campground for an ice cream. Graham decided he wanted to walk in to Sandy Bay a good six hours so I dropped him off and went to meet the other two. After passing them on the road we all met up for more ice creams at the campground and planned to fill the afternoon with a visit to the Big Rata, Onepoto Caves and Lou's Lookout then hiring a dinghy from DOC to row across to Sandy Bay for the night. And that's exactly what we did - excellent experience dudes! Graham was a bit surprised to see us but since he was nursing sore feet the prospect of a boat trip out perked him up a bit even if it meant passage as a galley-slave. We soon had tents up, dinner on, and time to enjoy the calm evening. I went for a long wade out for a swim with the kids staying there before turning camera towards sunset over a golden ripple-free lake...magic, a perfect day, completed with counting emerging stars and listening to moreporks and weka, or was it kiwi?

Day Four. Nightmares about mice for breakfast....Packed up early and mastered the rowing technique of two amidships and one for'ard despite the best efforts of Kath in the stern. We stopped off half way on Rahu Island to see the little lake with its bush reflections. After a brief scramble through the unique forest around the "lake" we set off again, this time with Kath amidships and keen to master the art of instant donuts. We pulled in to inspect the lake outlet but couldn't get close enough because there were too many donuts on the water. After beaching our sturdy aluminium craft, and returning the oars to the shed, we strolled gently downhill through the mixed beech forest, a great trip coming steadily to an end. We returned the lifejackets to DOC just before noon and headed off to Rosie Bay for a swim and lunch in the shade. By this time all we wanted to do was get home reasonably early. At the Tuai Power scheme we split up and after a relaxing trip with pit stops along the way we arrived back at seven. Thanks to our leader Nigel...GREAT trip, too bad you couldn't make it.

We were Kath Little, Dave Larsen, Graham Roberts and me Warren Wheeler.

RAFTING THE RANGITIKEI 2 Dec 1995

Finally, after two cancellations in the Foodtown carpark, it was fourth time lucky, the river was not in flood, and the trip was all on. Five cars brought everyone to the check in at Mangaweka and after some rationalizing of transport at Taihape we followed the old Bedford Adventure-mobile with its trailer load of rubber rafts to our destination at River valley after a steep drop off the terrace. We were to be joined by another group on the river and after gearing up with wetsuits and helmets we piled into the Bedford and set off up the road again and on to the drop in point. After slapping on plenty of sunscreen we lugged our allotted craft down into the river and after each crew was given some vital instructions on how to paddle we pushed off to practise doing what we were told by our guide at the rear of the each raft as we drifted into the first ripples. For the next couple of hours we were treated to full on adrenal in rushes as we weaved and bobbed through the rapids and paddle through the quieter bits. Long

flat bits were broken by water fights and soaking up the gorge scenery. Only one crew got wrapped on a rock, sucking both Warren and Glynn out of the boat into the last little drop of the rapid and into quiet water and handy rocks, so no worries. A mighty sandwich and choc bar for lunch revived energy levels for Phase Two. This not only included bigger rapids but also the Narrows, where the river runs deep and slow, and the 5 -6 m high Rock to dive and leap off. By the time we arrived at the Lodge I am sure we were all looking forward to the beer and Barbecue, feeling fantastic. Thanks Derek for persisting. It could hardly have been better. Thanks also to the crazy kayakers for showing us just what they can do in between taking action shots of us. Photos at \$7 each and great value.

We were Ron, Mike Lane, Dale and friend Rob, Nigel B., Derek, Vicky and Leo, Ramon, Helgi, Glynn, Pat and Robyn, and me Warren.

BUMPING OUR BUMS ON BOULDERS IN THE OTAKI RIVER (Anon.)

Brilliant colours of dawn greeted us in the morning as we set off with the right mind-set for a day full of adventure. A densely forested, leaf-covered track led us up and down over and through (the Tararuas), until a final bush-whacking up a ridge and scurry down the other side to the fork of the Penn and Otaki rivers. While eating lunch, we geared up for the whitewater adventure: crash hats, lots of polypro and air for the inertubes. Finally we put in and took off downstream. The bush-whacking scrapes were forgotten as the excitement of the rapids sent adrenalin highs through our bodies. For a novice tuber, even the smallest rapid can toss you over, or bruise your bum; bouncing you over unexpected hidden boulders. Or it can treat you right and give you a super fun ride. It's all good! Our trusty tubes eventually brought us down to the take-out point. As we deflated our lifeboats, I sighed with contentment, thinking about the beauty of the gorge, the excitement of the rapids and the friendly (perhaps a bit crazy) adventurous companions, we had discovered through the tramping club. Wa-hoo, wa-hoo!!