



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

APRIL 1996 Edition

Gear Custodian
Newsletter Editors

President	: Terry Crippen	356-3588
Membership Enquiries	: Liz Flint	356-7654
	: Warren Wheeler	356-1998
	: Mick Leyland	358-3183
	: Tony Gates	357-7439
	: John Phillips	358-1874

ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Mick Leyland	: Ph. 358-3183
Terry Crippen	: Ph. 356-3588
Sue & Lawson Pither	: Ph. 357-3033

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 (Wednesday or Thursday) SEE DETAILS BELOW, OR RING Liz Flint (356-7654), or Lawson and Sue Pither (357-3033), or Monica (326-9691).

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 7:30 pm during winter and 7:45 pm during summer 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.

SCHEDULED EVENT LIST

APRIL

APRIL 18 Weekday tramping Liz Flint 356-7654

APRIL 20-21 Waiaua Gorge, Egmont N.P. M Malcolm Parker 357-5203
Depart: 6:30 pm Friday night. Up to the Dawson, Falls road end for the night. Come Saturday morning, heading round the low level track, across to Lake Dive. Then onto Waiaua Gorge Hut for the night. Out on Sunday via the upper track. A good chance to see the southern area of Egmont National Park. There is also the possibility of an easy trip just to Lake Dive. Give Malcolm a phone call.

APRIL 21 Tunipo M Dale Lockart 359-2922.
Depart: 7:30 am This trip takes you to the Heritage Lodge and Ngamoko Range area of the Western Ruahines and is a popular day trip with good bush, a good track, and a steady climb up onto the open tops for spectacular views all around. So team up with Dale for a cracker autumn tramp.

ANZAC Day APRIL 25 Forest Hill, Forest & Stream E+M Dennis Moore 357-5651
Depart at a reasonable hour of the morning. This day walk/tramp investigates the forestry roads, and/or a stream traverse, close to home. It's just past Aokautere, up Forest Hill Road, in mainly pine forest, but with some native bush and reverting grassland. The loop includes part of North Range Road, so good views are in order, and the pace is relaxed. Dennis also adds lots of local knowledge about the area.

APRIL 25 Weekday tramping Peter Carver 354-4479

APRIL 25 Club Night The Arthur's Pass Slide Show
Last January, the club ran a two week trip to the Arthur's Pass area, eight days tramping then some climbing (Murchison and Rolleston). You may have read about the exploits of Ron, Nigel S., Gary, Bridget, Adam, and Terry in last month's Newsletter, now come along to see the slide show presented by some of the team. (P.S: don't forget club nights start at 7:30 during winter.)

APRIL 27-28 Camelbacks FE Alistair Millward 356-9612
Depart: 7 am An "interesting" trip to one of the more rugged areas of the Tararua Ranges. In creeks and leatherwood most of the way. Lots of fun. (A good way to get back into fitness after the odd bicycle accident?)

APRIL 28 Mangahao M Tony Gates 357-1439
Depart: Sunday morning A pleasant stroll past the Mangahao dams, and up to Harris creek Hut in the western, Tararua Ranges. Good forest, a great little river and pleasant company. The return will be via the same route or Barber Creek if time permits.

MAY

MAY 2 Weekday tramping Neil Gutry 354-0284

MAY 2 Committee meeting at Liz Flint's Place 43 Longmelford Road.

MAY 4-5 Southern Tararuas, This trip has been Cancelled and replaced by the following:

MAY 4-5 Chamberlain Creek M/F Tech Kevin Mansell 355-1389

Note new date (This trip has been brought forward from 25-26 May.)
Depart: 7 pm Friday night, an evening wander up to Herepai Hut, in the Northeastern Tararua Ranges, for the start of an interesting and different trip. Saturday up onto East Peak, then dropping into Chamberlain Creek. The decent down the creek involves a number of enjoyable and straightforward abseils. (That's why the trip is down as Technical). Saturday night is spent at Roaring Stag Lodge, and Sunday is an easy stroll back to the road end. Kevin has done this trip before, so he can tell you about the abseiling requirements, so give him a phone call.

MAY 4-5 Ruahine Corner M Dennis Moore 357-5651
Note New Date (this trip was originally down for 13-14 April)
Depart 6 am. Using 4WD vehicles we will go into Smyther Hut via Mangaohane Station on the Northwest flanks of the Ruahine Ranges. Then by foot we will head for Ruahine Corner Hut in the Forest Park. This is a great opportunity to visit the high altitude rolling tussock lands, the Black Hills and the amazing sink holes called the Doldrums. Join Dennis, the great white snail hunter in search of the mighty Paraphantus, ?denizen of this strange land.

MAY 5 Tama, TNP M Peter Wiles 358-6894

Depart: 6 am Tama Lakes are two drowned volcanic vents between Mounts Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe and are worth visiting. Heading in from either the Desert Road or the Chateau, through mostly tussock country with the odd patch of beech forest, gradually climbing up for magnificent scenery plus. Come along.

MAY 9 Weekday tramping Ken Hall 356-8538

MAY 9 Club Night Mountains and Glaciers Ted Smith

BEING THE TRAVELS OF AN ENGINEER THROUGH THE VALLEYS OF THE STAUNINGS ALPS IN EAST GREENLAND AND THE HUNZA MOUNTAINS OF NORTHERN PAKISTAN. Ted is a mechanical engineer (with the Department of Production Engineering at Massey University), who is currently carrying out research on a photographic technique to measure the movement of glaciers. Why should an engineer want to study glaciers? The story starts with the present and the Godley Valley of the Southern Alps but quickly moves to Ted's past travels. Relatively little is known about the mechanisms which dictate the movements of glaciers. His wanderings around Greenland and the Karakoram have given him plenty of opportunity to look, see, think and dream. Looking at these travels, through the slides to be presented, will perhaps give some insight into why an engineer should want to study the movement of glaciers.

MAY 11 Island Ridge M Derek Sharp 326-8178

Depart: 7:30 am An "Introductory day trip to map and compass in the Northern Tararua Ranges". We will either encircle Island Ridge or take an odd route over it. Should be back by early evening.

MAY 11-12 Graeme's Special M Graeme Roberts 357-8567

Somewhere new, somewhere different, somewhere Graeme hasn't been to yet? Contact Graeme for destination details, or just contact him for trip requirements and don't let him tell you the destination till you leave the car park at the start of the tramp! Have ago, you may be pleasantly surprised.

MAY 16 Weekday tramping Judy Stockdale 355-5277

EDITORIAL

By Terry Crippen

Well it's the start of a new financial year for PNTMC, we have had our AGM and have a LARGE committee for this new year. Was it the wine and cheese that helped get such a big committee? Five officers and ten (yes 10) general committee members (only 4 last year). So should be able to distribute the work quite well.

A few bits and pieces from my report presented at the AGM:

MEMBERSHIP "Currently 82 people belong to the club. Last year – 69, the '93/'94 year - 50). This continuing increase, I believe, is a result of a combination of good advertising/ both written and word of mouth, successful club nights, and successful varied tramps and activities."

TRIPS "In total, ninety one trips took place. This number includes the official club trips (ones advertised on the events card and in the Newsletter) and unofficial trips (ones organised by club members by word of mouth, etc). These unofficial trips are also important to the Club as they foster further interaction between club members. So always feel free to phone round for extra trips. But don't forget to continue to support the scheduled official trips."

INSTRUCTION COURSES AND ACTIVITIES. "The Club's Snowcraft Course was highly successful this year. A slightly more formal approach was taken which included evenings of theory and "practice", while the actual weekends were spaced closer together to give some continuity. The number of pupils who attended was, I think, a record; there were 18 on SCI, 23 on SCII, and 14 on SCIII." What will 1996 bring?

"There has been renewed activity and instruction in rockclimbing. I hope to see this develop as it compliments snowcraft. It is more pleasant to learn rope work in the summer warmth while rockclimbing, than in a Ruapehu midwinter storm. We have formalised our use of the Massey rock wall, this should also help in developing the Clubs rockclimbing base also."

PUBLICATIONS ETC "This year a listing of all the scheduled trips since the club was formed has been compiled. This gives an interesting insight into 30 years of trips and is well worth browsing through". (see Peter Wiles for a look at it)

"SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE COMING YEAR AND THE NEW COMMITTEE I have two issues that I would like to be considered. Firstly; from comments of some new people arriving at Club nights, I think the incoming committee should look again at the need for having a roster of door hosts for each club night. Secondly following on from the successful changes to the snowcraft course, the MSC rivercrossing course, and reintroducing rockclimbing instruction, I would like to see the committee look at possibilities for instruction in bushcraft, navigation and/or leadership, (risk management). This could either be done within the club or by using outside organisations such as the Mountain Safety council."

NOTICES

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The following members were elected unopposed at the AGM Thursday 28th March;

Patron/Auditor	Lawson Pither
President	Terry Crippen
Vice President	Tony Gates
Secretary	Warren Wheeler
Treasurer	Peter Wiles
General Committee	Andy Backhouse
	Nigel Barrett
	Liz Flint
	Mick Leyland
	Alistair Millward
	John Phillips
	Nigel Scott
	Derek Sharp
	Sarah Todd
	Bruce Van Brunt

These elected trampers together with other "appointees" have been given further responsibilities and jobs for the effective running of your club. Phone numbers are added for reference. (It could be useful to keep this list handy):

Membership enquirers	Warren Wheeler	356-1998
	Liz Flint	356-7654
Gear custodian	Mick Leyland	358-3183
Newsletter editor/distributors	Tony Gates	357-7439
	John Phillips	358-1874
Trips Convenor	Terry Crippen	356-3588
Overdue trips contacts	Mick Leyland	358-3186
	Terry Crippen	356-3588
	Sue & Lawson Pither	357-3033
Instruction Course organizers	Andy Backhouse	353-0774
	Bruce Van Brunt	328-4761
Club night organizer	Tony Gates	357-7439
Club night supper	Derek Sharp	326-8178
	Sarah Todd	329-8040
Club night door host roster	Nigel Scott	326-8161
Advertising	Monica Cantwell	326-9691
Membership list	Peter Wiles	358-6894
Sales	Alistair Millward	356-9612
Conservation Spokesperson	Tony Gates	357-7439
FMC contact	Nigel Barrett	326-8847
MSC contact	Terry Crippen	356-3588
Search & Rescue contacts	Warren Wheeler	356-1998
	Linda Rowan	356-4655
	Mick Leyland	358-3183
Weekday tramping contacts	Liz Flint	356-7654
	Monica Cantwell	326-9691
Librarian	Tony Gates	
Archives	Peter Wiles	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The new good value club subscriptions, as passed at the AGM, are \$30.00 (single), \$35.00 (couple), and \$10.00 (student). Please forward payment to the Treasurer, or to a committee member. Thank you.

NEW EDITORIAL TEAM

Yes, this fine Newsletter has a brand spanking new Editorial Team. John -and Tony will attempt to maintain Peters high quality Newsletter published on time I said on time. Quality deserves quantity, so get to it all you budding authors, and please give your friendly editors some contributions, otherwise you will be asked, told, and generally hounded until the Editors are happy. We will pay one dollar per word for each article. (I'm only kidding) but seriously, there is great honour to be gained in having an article published. We prefer to accept articles on

paper, (due to viruses and bacteria lurking on disc). Deadline for each Newsletter will be early each month. The Newsletter should be published shortly after each Committee Meeting.

HUT PASSES

We purchase Annual DOC Hut passes from the DOC office at Pohangina for the FMC subsidised rate of \$40.00. It's good value. Another order is currently being compiled, and if you wish to purchase a hut pass, then please notify Tony or a committee member.

PHOTOS FOR CLUB ALBUM

The PNTMC photo album is being prepared, and requires members' contributions. This is an exciting project, and is a chance to have your photos of club activities kept forever for future generations to enjoy. We may even display photo competition winners, and other important club bits and pieces. Contact Tony, or a committee member.

SNOW CRAFT

The 1996 Snowcraft course should commence mid July 1996, taking up three weekends plus two evenings that are designed to each complement each other. Andy and Bruce are organising this ever popular series of events. More details later.

EQUIPMENT

Your committee is in the process of updating the club hire equipment. Iceaxe slings and crampon straps may never be the same again!

THURSDAY TRIPS

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

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING May

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 Liz Flint's place 43 Long Melford Road. All members welcome.

JUNE- DEC 96 TRIP CARD

The next club Trip Card will be printed before June 1996, and will require some member input. There are multitudes of great trips to think about, and these all require leaders. Think about the trip card, and contact Terry, or you will be contacted. It is a valuable club document.

PHOTO COMPETITION

This will be held on Thursday June 27 as our usual club evening. John Cleland will provide the quality judging. Think about your contributions please. Rules to be published next newsletter.

TARARUAS

- DOC and DOSLI are currently in the process of reprinting the Tararua Forest Park Map (Infomap), to be ready late 1996. They are requesting photos to assist illustrating it, and if you have any that you think may be suitable, then they can be forwarded to DOC. Contact Tony or Warren regarding this.
- Haukura Biv (dog kennel), located way above Roaring Stag, will be removed May 1996.
- The second swing bridge on the track to Herepai Hut is still unusable.

MT COOKI WESTLAND

FMC have given us a questionnaire regarding the issue of air access to Mt Cook and Westland National Parks. FMC are contributing to a working party formulating policy with the Mackenzie District Council on this most controversial issue. Basically FMC are supporting the three proposed areas, which I assume PNTMC will support;

1. No fly area below 3500 metres. (Hooker, Mt Cook, upper Godley)
2. No landing area. (Tekapo- Godley)
3. Free open flying and landing. (Tasman, Cass, Ben Ohau)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Phillip Brown	37 Coventry St	3551389
Kevin Mallsell	" " " "	" "
Peter Burgess	244 Botanical Road	359 2922

FOR SALE

Kathmandu Boots size 41 (7- 7.5 UK) with sympatex lining. This is similar in function to Goretex. Boots only 9 months old, as my daughter has out grown them. Price \$80.00 (new, \$200.00). Phone Liz Flint 356 7654

GET A HAIRCUT

I saw on the telly the other day a story of a girl abseiling over in Aussie. Her long hair got caught in the friction device, and she hung there for an hour on her hair until rescued. They had to cut her free!

TRIP REPORTS

THURSDAY/WEEKDAY TRAMPERS

Places visited by this group so far this year, mostly on Thursdays, include:

Mt Urchin in the Kaimanawa Ranges, Waihoonu Hut and almost Oturere Hut in Tongariro National Park, Kapiti Island, Stanfield and A-frame Huts in the Ruahine Ranges, Gorge Track, Blue Range, Sunrise and Top Maropea Huts in the Ruahine Ranges, Mitre Flats in the Tararua Ranges, Burtons Bush, and A-Frame again. Great fun was had by all on these trips.

(PS if you have time during the week -usually Thursdays why not. go on one of these regular trips. Phone up the contacts listed in the Scheduled Events or on the first page of the Newsletter.)

TRAMPING WITH SHEEP Jan 96, By Tony Gates

It was hot and sunny. We blatted through Chch, then the delightful seaside town of Akaroa. Arranged transport then deposited us at the first hut at Onuku, a pleasantly appointed lodge in a paddock full of contented sheep. A beautiful sunset.

The Banks Peninsular Track, more passionately known simply as "The BP Track", climbs over the hills behind Akaroa and down to the spectacular coastline, around several bays and headlands, then back over the hills to Akaroa. Most of the track is over sheep country, you know, wide open grassy slopes, some rough pasture and scrub, and patches of native bush. The sheep don't seem to mind too much with the human intruders, but probably would object to dogs. The track is well formed and signposted, and follows dirt roads for a few short sections. Accommodation is bach like, old farm cottages tidied up, cooking gas and utensils available, some with electricity and food supplies for sale. Officially, it takes four or two days to tramp, with approximately 16 hours walking total (according to the guide book). Attractions include numerous points of historic interest, Hector's dolphins, seals, and penguins, remnant forest, and friendly locals. The BP track is fondly remembered by all who walk it.

Day one was overcast. Three of us, that is Yvonne, Sallie, and I, climbed steeply to the highest point of the track past volcanic rocks, and gaunt tree stumps of a forest long disappeared. Rather ghostly in the mist. I think the sheep like the tree stumps for shelter. It was a long haul down to our destined lunch spot, Flea Bay. The track bypassed a couple of spectacular waterfalls in good coastal native forest. Sunny. The afternoon was spent tramping with sheep above sheer coastal cliffs around the coast to the cottage at Stoney Bay. Features here included cold beer, hot water, and friendly pigs.

Day two, and we were invigorated by slightly overcast weather and an early start. The track followed more farmland above high cliffs to Otanerito Bay, where another lodge was located. Sheep were numerous. Hot sunshine forced us inside for an extended siesta that stretched from nearly 10.00 to 4.00. And it was very pleasant resting in luxury. Then the inevitable, the need to tramp back up the big hill to Akaroa. Thanks to shade provided by the trees, the climb was OK, however we required plenty of drink. Diary records spectacular forest and long grass. A lovely evening sun over Akaroa Harbour, then it was all over (till next time).

HARRIS CREEK HUT, 25 February.

We left the Police Station at 7.30. This was a combined trip, Manawatu Tramping, and PN clubs. One of our newcomers was a bit late arriving and was nearly left behind. The day was lovely, half decided to go along the river and we would meet at the second swing bridge. This left two of us left to help call for Judy's dog. It soon became apparent that the dog had hared after Peter, he was making a fast trip into Avalanche Flats. So we forgot the dog, m? up with the others, and enjoyed the hike in.

At the hut we saw dog tracks and Judy was confident it had met up with Peter and the big dog. We carried on to the bridge where the swimming hole was a welcome relief for some. Others were known to have gone to sleep and had to be woken up for the return! The two children looked longingly at the pools in the river and so we all returned via the river to the cars, stopping while Nic and Jerome braved it. Ice creams at Shannon were lovely.

We were; Liz, Arthur, Nic, and Jerome Flint, Judy Stockdale, Monica Cantwell, Sam Gillingham, Melanie McTaggart, Molly Morris, Simo and Alan Watts.

AWATERE 10 March

We left Palmerston at 7.30 am and parked at Moorcocks Base. The walk in was beautiful, with great views of Longview Hut. After a picturesque descent, we arrived at the hut but settled by the stream for lunch. Some of us had a swim, although Monica and I decided the water temp had dropped and we thought it might be the last of our

summer dips. An easy amble back was enjoyed by all except Jerome who decided to run. This is a lovely trip with a little of all typical Ruahine beauty.

We were; Brigit Gibson, Peter Johnson, Monica Cantwell, Molly Morris, Sabrina, Liz, Arthur, Nic, Jerome Flint.

BOOK REVIEWS

1. .MOIRS GUIDE SOUTH- (Sixth Edition, completely revised) Edited by Robin McNeill, Published by Great Southern Lakes Press, Chch, 1995.

Moirs guide books are essential for tramping and climbing anywhere south of Mt Cook National Park. They have been around forever, specialising in true wilderness travel. This is the latest edition of the southern end, ie Fiordland in its wonderful entirety (plus a few neighbouring hills- sorry Pete, not quite as far north as the Red Hills).

Fiordland is an area roughly ten times the size of the Ruahines. All of the Fiordland catchments and ranges are covered in this guide (minus the Murchison Mountains special Takaha area) and the Darrans. Many of the place names are embedded in our history, from pre European days, Captain Cook's explorations, Moose hunting, and nowadays, the ever popular recreation of tramping. You have probably heard about the "big name" tracks, you know, the Milford, Hollyford, Greenstone Caples, Routeburn, Kepler, and Dusky Sound. These are all treated in approximately the same depth as other tracks and routes. Wilderness areas too, are well known to literature enthusiasts such as the author, with such place names as; Tutoko, Lake Alabaster, the Doon, Wild Natives, Irene, Edith, Camelot, Pursegro Point, and Takitimu (the list is endless).

There are five chapters, chosen on the basis of location, each divided up into several areas;

1. North of Lake Te Anau (11 areas)
2. West of Lake Te Anau (10 areas)
3. West of Lake Manapouri (12 areas)
4. The South Coast (5 areas)
5. East of Fiordland (4 areas)

After a couple of introductory chapters, written route descriptions are straight forward, e.g. "follow the west bank to the forks for two and a half hours, follow the southern ridge up an old slip to bluffs in the tussock, sidle to the north west to the obvious saddle in the middle of the basin". There are quick reference details at the end of each area description. This is obviously essential stuff, however I found the writing somewhat dry, and the photos were shocking (one or two B/W every half a dozen pages). I think that no photograph is better than a bad one. And I was continually frustrated by the lack of maps. Only a couple of small areas were mapped (poorly mapped at that), and Fiordland in its entirety was presented in two maps no more than 150 mm square. To coin a phrase, this is somewhat user unfriendly. I await the sixth edition.

2. "TRAMPING IN THE SOUTH ISLAND: Nelson Lakes to Arthurs Pass" By Sven Braybn, 1995. Braybn Publishing, Chch.

Following in the footsteps (literally) of his earlier guide book, Arthurs Pass to Mt Cook, Braybn presents a bright, breezy, user friendly book (with maps!!!!). The only photographs, bar the cover., were on advertisements, but that does not detract from the route guides. Other publications cover some areas (Paparoas, National Parks, St James Walkway), but this book certainly fills a gap. It is another essential library acquisition, and quite suitable to toss into your pack or car when you next visit the area. I look forward to Braybn's next book, south of Mt Cook?

Eleven chapters list their respective areas, and appendices list; huts tracks, and trips of various grades. Many well known tramps of Marlborough, Westland, and Canterbury are listed in pleasantly worded chapters, and with quick reference guides of times, huts, road ends, and maps.