

PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

October 1996 Edition

Club Patron	: Lawson Pither	357-3033
President	: Terry Crippen	356-3588
Vice President	: Tony Gates	357-7439
Secretary	: Warren Wheeler	
Treasurer	: Peter Wiles	358-6894
Membership Enquires	: Liz Flint 356-7654 and Warren Wheeler 356-1998	
Trips co-ordinators	: Terry Crippen (356-3588) and Liz Flint (356-7654)	
Gear Custodian	: Mick Leyland	358-3183
Newsletter Editor	: John Philips	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 FERGUSON 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. Beginners should start with Easy graded tramps.

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.

<p>Deadline for notices and trip reports for inclusion in newsletter: LAST THURSDAY of each month.</p>

NOTE TO TRIP LEADERS: PLEASE DISCUSS WITH THE TRIPS CONVENOR (TERRY 356-3588), AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO RUN YOUR TRIP AS SCHEDULED. THIS IS SO THAT ALTERNATIVES CAN BE ARRANGED, PUT IN THE NEWSLETTER, OR PASSED ON AT CLUB NIGHT.

OCT 10 Midweek Tramping Neil Gutry 354-0284

OCT 10 Club night: Rocky Mountains Peter and Judy Stockdale

Note: Club nights now commence at 8pm because of Daylight Saving. Tonight, club members Peter and Judy will be presenting a talk on some activities in the Rocky Mountains. Peter and Judy have spoken to us before, and they have some great pickies to show.

OCT 12-13 Howletts - Longview M Llew Prichard 358-2217

This area is an eternal favourite for many of us, and there are numerous options for trips in the area. The route to Howletts follows the Tukituki to Daphne hut, then climbs steeply to the delightful Howletts hut, which is just on the tops. Tramp along Daphne ridge to Otumore on Sunday, then down to Longview hut, and the road. Good low tussock tops, some leatherwood, and always good views. There may still be a bit of snow about up there, so be prepared.

OCT 12-13 Rock-climbing Instruction I Andy Backhouse 353-0774

Leave Friday 7pm. Another chance to brush up on skills that will be useful for Snowcraft. Location will be Mangetepopo Valley in Tongariro National Park (not City Rock, as suggested in last newsletter). We could stay in the Mangetepopo Hut, which is a 'Great Walk' hut and therefore will cost about \$14/night, or tent out in the valley somewhere. Will also make a short trip to the nearest polling booth at some stage on Saturday!

OCT 17 Midweek Tramping Ken & Rose Hall 356-8538

OCT 19-20 Mangahao Flats combo M Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Depart 8 am. A combined trip with MTSC. Drive into the Tararuas from Shannon, then up to the top dam carpark. A couple of hours of fairly muddy tramping to Harris Creek Hut, then pleasant open grassy river flats and beech forest.

OCT 20 Mick's Mystery Trip M Mick Leyland 358-3183

We can't tell you where you are going as it is a mystery! Mick knows the hills well, and his trips are always good value, so give him a call and come along.

OCT 24 Midweek Tramping Lawson Pither 357-3033

Labour Weekend

OCT 25-28 Mt Hikurangi M+F Terry Crippen 356-3588

Names to John Phillips 358-1874

Departs 6am, Friday 25th. Another full moon, smack bang in the middle of the weekend this time, so adding to what should be a great trip to one of those seldom visited mountains. Hikurangi is the highest non-volcanic peak in the North Island at 1752m, and is well known as "the first to see the light". It lies on the eastern edge of Raukumara Forest Park, near the top of the East coast. It is a steep crag at the top, getting well up into the tussock tops. There is a good hut near the base of the mountain. Four days are required due to the travelling distances involved (car travel most of Friday

and Monday). Medium trip will be a summit climb based from the hut, but the Fit trip will also include either a loop northwest into the Mangamauku Valley, or a traverse east across to Aorangi. Terry will be leading, but he will already be in the Gisborne area for the two weeks prior to the trip. John Phillips will therefore be organising the departure leg from Palmerston North in Terry's absence, so contact John re: transport, etc.

OCT 26-28 Heritage Lodge Family Jo & Lawrence O'Halloran 356-2296
Depart Sat, 8 am. A very easy stroll up an old road in the Oroua River, in from Apiti. The hut is nothing to speak of, but the river flats below it make for pleasant picnicking. May stay overnight depending on the level of interest.

OCT 27 Tunipo Stream Exploration E/M/F Warren Wheeler 356-1998
Depart 7:30 am. There are many options for this trip - from a single stroll up the stream to a complete circuit via Tunipo Peak - it will depend on what everyone wants to do. The trip starts at the Heritage lodge carpark and heads up the Iron Gates track above the Oroua River for an hour before turning up the Tunipo Stream. Expect wet feet and maybe more! If the weather isn't good on Sunday, we can try again on Monday.

OCT 31 Midweek Tramping Judy Stockdale 355-5277

OCT 31 Club Night: Intro To South Island Trips
Note: Club nights now commence at 8pm because of Daylight Saving. Tonight, prospective trip leaders will be talking about, and showing slides of, tramping in the South Island. The ultimate for many of us is the long weekend/ week/ two week expedition into the Southern Alps. That is where you can tramp, climb, and simply exist in New Zealand's best mountains and valleys.

NOV 2-3 Cattle Creek X-ing M David Grant 357-8269
The easy Tamaki riverbed in from Dannevirke leads up to the pleasant Stanfields Hut, then the track climbs steeply up and over to Cattle Creek Hut, which should be reached by lunchtime. The route follows Cattle Creek downstream past a small gorge, then open country and pleasant river flats to the renovated Mid Pohangina Hut. A good spot. Sunday, out via "the track we love to hate" to the Pohangina farmland. Good Ruahine tramping territory.

NOV 3 Takapari cycle MTB Stuart Hubbard 356-8782
Takapari Road is a very interesting route to follow, climbing high into the leatherwood above the Pohangina valley and Dannevirke. A mountain bike trip with plenty of options for a good look around the southern Ruahines.

NOV 7 Midweek Tramping Liz Flint 356-7654

NOV 7 Committee meeting Nigel Barrett's, Ashhurst

NOV 9-10 Whanganui Bay rock T Andy Backhouse 353-0774
A good follow-on from the October rock-climbing weekend in TNP, and important stuff for all Snowcraft buffs. Longer days of springtime will see people getting out and about to do interesting things. Andy wants to visit the shores of Lake Taupo, to the famous ignimbrite rock bluffs that so many people enjoy climbing. A fantastic spot. Lovely swimming too.

NOV 10 Sheriden Creek, Otaki E Richard Lockett 323-0948

Otaki Forks provides for pleasant picnics, and there are numerous tramps radiating out from the farmland into the Tararuas. Some tramping over farmland and cut over forest, then some good Tararua beech forest and rivers. Be prepared for wet feet.

NOV 14 Midweek Tramping Russ Johnson 358-7777

NOV 14 Club night: THE GRAND AUCTION

Starts 8 pm. This is your chance to come along armed with cash and cheque books to pick up that great bargain! Tents, billies, primuses, tow ropes (ex-climbing ropes!), and any relevant collectables or antiques. The club is re-organising its gear stocks so a clean-out of unwanted gear, such as older to-be-retired ex-hire gear, is in order. Also, if you want to put your own tramping/climbing related stuff up for auction, bring it along, the more stuff the better. Our very own auctioneer, Mr Warren "Wheeler-dealer", will get a good price for it, with a small commission going to club gear funds. So roll up. [No pre-auction buying thank you! Phone-bidding allowed if someone has a cellphone.]

NOV 16-17 Toka-Leon Kinvig M Judy & Peter Stockdale 355-5277

The upper Pohangina Valley is a gorgeous spot, with pleasant river flats and beech forest, and luxuriously appointed huts. Leon Kinvig is one of them, now recently renovated. Best access is from the Apiti end, over Knights Track, on the Ngamoko Range. Opportunity for some route deviations. Depart Saturday morning.

NOV 17 Waipawa Saddle M/F Patrick Janssen 356-3116

Tramp up the Waipawa river from the carpark (near the carpark to Sunrise). The wide open gravel river bed is the result of severe erosion, which can be seen towering above you. However, it is a pleasant tramp taking you onto the tussock tops overlooking the central Ruahines.

NOV 21 Midweek Tramping Vina Cottam 354-5045

NOV 23-24 Ngauruhoe summit camp M Alan Bee 354-9180

Alan was there when it all happened last year (the eruption that is) so this year he will be back, hopefully not to see another eruption! The route climbs up from the Mangetepopo car park up to South Crater, then sweats up the northern slopes of Ngauruae to the summit crags. The snow (if there is any left) gets pretty soft during the day, but can freeze over during the night, so be prepared for crampons and ice axe. A sheltered campsite and/or snowcave will be chosen either at South Crater, or if you are lucky, in the summit crater. Bivybags and warm stuff is required. Great sunset views. A fantastic bum slide/glissade back down the next day. Full moon. Depart PN after breaky Saturday.

NOV 23 Iron Gates Hut E/M Malcolm Parker 357-5203

A Saturday tramp from Apiti up the Oroua Valley to Iron Gates Hut. A good track for all of the way, but if the river permits, it is much quicker tramping up it at least for part of the way.

NOV 28 Midweek Tramping Keith Domett 04 562-7322

NOV 28 Club night: Navigation and River Safety

Starts 8 pm. This evening will focus on a couple of important tramping skills. Under the guidance of Linda Rowan and others, there will be a short map and compass exercise (from the hall into the Esplanade area and back!) followed by the latest Mountain Safety Council video on river safety.

This evening is the precursor to a weekend event on Navigation and River Safety coming up at the end of the month.

EDITORIAL

It was a rather short winter this year, but summer opportunities will hopefully overcome any feelings of missed winter opportunities I'm sure. As the snow rapidly melts away, thoughts turn to summer plans for those extended tramping trips. There is a really good array of club trips of varying grades of fitness on offer this summer, including another Arthurs Pass trip, Kahurangi National Park and, closer to home, Matemateaonga Walkway. Those who are interested in them should contact the trip leaders as early as possible to allow planning details to be finalised. Also come along to the October 31 club night to hear first-hand from the trip leaders.

In another corner of the country, a trip is planned for the coming Labour Weekend (Oct 25-28) to Mt Hikurangi up in East Cape country. Anybody who has ever driven around the Cape may have noticed the striking forms of this and several other mountains that are visible from the main road near Ruatoria. What makes Hikurangi so spectacular is that, at over 1700 metres, it towers well above the surrounding hill country which is generally below 1000 metres. Very few have registered an interest in this trip so far, so give it some thought if you're interested in a glimpse at a different part of the country.

Raukumara Forest Park, at 115,000 hectares, is the largest forest park in the North Island, and the most seldom used. Hikurangi is only the eastern edge; to the west and southwest lies a vast, largely untracked forest wilderness. The park has only 5 huts in total, and most of these lie along a 5-day route from near Hikurangi southwest to the Motu River. The route mostly follows river valleys - there are only a few kilometres of cut track in the whole park. We are thinking about this for a club trip in the future. In the meantime, the Hikurangi trip is a good opportunity for a bird's-eye preview of the park!

Well, time has flown... this is my sixth issue as editor and I've thoroughly enjoyed it. Thanks to Tony who is the writer of blurbs on scheduled trips in each issue; it lightens my job somewhat! Incidentally, after investigating options, the club committee has decided to change the newsletter format, probably by the end of the year. We have had some very competitive quotes for the newsletter to be produced by an offset printer, so the days of poor old Peter having to crank the Gestetner handle over a thousand times a month are now limited! I'm sure the improved print quality of the new newsletter will also make the change worthwhile.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir

I wish to correct an error which was printed in PNTMC September Newsletter. In my Hound Hike trip report there was a typo? a spelling error? or maybe a Freudian slip on your part? (after all 'c' and 'l' are at opposite angles of the keyboard). I wish to assure readers and all other canine friends that Tricia never has practised corporal punishment nor in fact does she believe in disciplining in that manner. When Liz drives up the driveway I know what it means, A WALK! not a WACK!! Doggonit don't insult our canine intelligence. -Amy Eder.

[I don't know about the Freudian bit, but I can assure our canine friends that the word was reported as it appeared - translation errors are always possible with hand (or paw?) written reports. Having said that, the report does make more sense now! -Editor]

NEWS FROM ABROAD

John,

Thanks for your e-mail. It got through with no problems. I do not remember the August newsletter so I may not have received it if it came out late. If you can I would appreciate a copy of the August and September Newsletters. I will see if we have Word 6.0 here. The machine I am using is a large Sun station which has nothing practical such as Word on it.

I'll be over here until mid-December and then I'll be in the U.S. until Jan 10. There are incredible mountains out here. There are a couple of ranges as large as the Southern Alps within a days drive. There is a range literally in my back garden (i.e. within 40km there is plenty of climbing). I have been trapped indoors for the last two weeks owing to poor weather on the weekends (you know the story). Next week I am heading out to Glacier park in BC to climb some 3000m peaks before the season ends. The following week I am going to attack Mt Rainier down by Seattle (14500 ft): it's a giant sized Egmont but in contrast it is totally covered in glaciers from just about the carpark on up. If I have any luck I'll send you a short (I will be brief this time) account for the Newsletter.

Best Regards,
Bruce van Brunt

Bruce's postal address is: The University of British Columbia,
 Mathematics Department
 121-1984 Mathematics Road
 Vancouver, B.C.
 Canada, V6T 1Y4

NOTICES

TRIP REPORTS AND OTHER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES A note from the Editor

To all of you who would like to contribute articles to this newsletter, small articles are okay hand-written (deliver to John Phillips, 87 Victoria Avenue), but it makes the editor's job a bit easier if larger articles are on disc. Even better, if you have the facilities at home or at work, why not "e-mail" it to me at my work e-mail address which is PHILLIPS@MWRC.GOV.NZ. I am editing on "Microsoft Works" software, which can convert Microsoft Word as well. If you use any other software, give me a ring on 357-9009(work) or 358-1874(home) and I may be able to indicate whether it is compatible or not. Please note the deadline for each month's issue on the front page of the newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to two new members this month:

Rosie Bishop	Warren Soufflot
Wellfield Cottage	12 Kaimanawa Street
Kairanga-Bunnythorpe Rd	Palmerston North
R D 8 Palmerston North	Phone 353-0224.
Phone 353-3925	

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Dale Lockart: 108A Kiwi Road, Point Chevalier, AUCKLAND. Ph: (09) 846-1061

Dale has moved to Auckland for employment reasons. All the best Dale, and perhaps we can see a club trip somewhere north in the future?

FIRST AID COURSES

Sheryl Wright has confirmed the next MSC courses on Outdoor First Aid. The Palmerston North courses will be on NOVEMBER 9-10 and DECEMBER 7-8. A course originally planned for October has been cancelled. Cost will be \$80 which is good value, because it includes all food. The location is Camp Kilsby at Linton. For those who cannot make these dates, Wellington MSC are running one at Riverslea Lodge, Otaki Forks on October 5-6. The cost for this course will be \$110 because of the higher cost for the Lodge. Contact Sheryl on 358-3300 or 025-416 585 for details, or to register your interest.

THE NEXT SIX MONTHLY EVENTS CARD

The new trip card for January to July 1997 is now being prepared, and comes out with the December Newsletter, so that gives just a couple of months for all your suggestions as to where you want club trips to go to, and your offers to lead them. Also your suggestions/offers for club night speakers/events. Be in early by contacting the Trips convenor Terry Crippen 356-3588, or Liz Flint 356-7654 and, for the club evenings, the Social convenor Tony Gates 357-7439 before we contact you!

EXTENDED TRIPS THIS SUMMER - Preliminary info

Note: Contact leaders well in advance.

1. Matemateaonga Walkway, Whanganui National Park

Have you ever dreamed of one of those relaxing holiday-type trips where the huts aren't too far apart, there are no longer uphill (or downhill) stretches, the scenery is fantastic, the huts are excellent, etc etc etc. This trip will certainly meet all these very stringent criteria.

The track follows a route planned for a road that was surveyed along the crest of the Matemateaonga Range in the early part of this century, aiming to link the prosperous area surrounding Stratford with Pipiriki and the thriving tourist industry based around the Whanganui River. In many parts you can still see where the roadway had been cut into the hillsides.

Previously one of the major drawbacks from this trip has been the horrendous transport problem. This has now been resolved for a very reasonable cost. That just leaves you to concentrate on enjoying yourself and having a well-earned holiday. So if you are interested in this trip of about 4 days from December 27-30, then contact Malcolm Parker on 357-5203.

2. Kahurangi National Park

This will be a medium to fit trip between January 2-11 in the New Year. Planning for this trip is very preliminary at this stage, with various options being considered. The Park offers long and short trips to points of interest and through different types of country - wide river valleys, rugged ridges, plateaux, karst and sink-hole landscapes. To gain the most enjoyment from this trip a combination of long and short trips could work out well, for example 6 days Cobb Valley to Boulder Lake via the Drunken Sailors, 2-3 days in the Mt Arthur Tablelands and 1-2 days to Mt Owen. For those with limited time, it may be possible to join only one section of the trip. If you are interested in joining this trip or have a trip preference in mind, then contact Warren (356-1998).

3. Arthur's Pass

A two week (January 14 or 18 to February 2) combination alpine tramping/climbing trip to the Arthur's Pass area along similar lines to the trips the last two summers; an 8 to 10 day trans-alpine tramp in the Waimakariri / Wilberforce / Taipo areas, climbing the odd peak, hopefully Mt Davie and Carrington Peak, from high camps. Followed by a few days of "rest" and climbing based in

Arthur's Pass township. Grade: Fit and Technical, ie. capable of doing an extended trip (8 to 10 days), generally about 6-8 hours tramping per day but with the odd 13 hour day, and at least Snowcraft III ability. Cost: very approximately \$250-300 (not \$200 as reported in last newsletter) depending on how we travel - includes food/transport . Closing date for names: end of November. Contact Terry 356-3588.

FOR SALE

Garmont Explorer tramping boots, Size 7. Excellent condition. \$200 ono. Phone Sarah: 350-4251 (work) or 357-0612 (home).

BOOK REVIEW by Tony Gates

"The Mount Aspiring Region" By Graham Bishop 1974 (1989 update)

A stock standard mountaineering guide to one of New Zealand's premier alpine regions, an area that many club members know quite well.

CAMERA REVIEW by John Phillips

A number of people showed an interest in some of the "panorama" type photos entered in this year's photo competition, so I thought I'd write a short blurb about them. These photos were from a 'disposable' type camera. The one I used most was the Fuji "QuickSnap Panorama" model which sells for about \$14-00. The film quality is not as good as your normal camera/film set-up, mainly because the film is quite 'fast' (400 ASA) which gives quite a coarse-grained picture quality. The camera actually uses a normal size film negative, but the top and bottom are cropped automatically to achieve a low, wide view style (a bit of a cheat really, but quite legitimate I think, in terms of the effectiveness of the final photo composition). Thus your "normal" photo size will be quite small - you need to request an enlarged size - mine were 4 x 12 inch, which costs about \$17-00 for a 15-frame film - not bad value at just over \$1-00 per print (but add another \$1-00 per print for initial film/camera purchase, of course).

There are a few panorama camera brands on the market. As well as the Fuji mentioned above, I tried a Konica, and I know Tony Gates has tried a Kodak. Personally I prefer the Fuji because it is the most compact in size, and has the better quality picture; both the Konica and Kodak seem to blur towards the left and right edges of the photo. Nevertheless, the Konica was quite interesting because it had a much wider angle lens than the Fuji (focal length 17mm, compared to the Fuji which is about 28mm, I think) - which gives you incredible scope when it comes to wide vistas which also have some height, such as in Fiordland. However, such a wide-angle can be a problem where the subject matter has any straight lines, such as a water surface or flat horizon, because the distortion around the edges of the photo turns straight lines into huge curves.

I first 'discovered' disposable cameras on a series of trips in Fiordland last April, and soon gained a questionable reputation with my fellow travellers when I had as many as four cameras at one stage!! - the Fuji and the Konica panoramas, as well as a Kodak waterproof disposable camera for a kayaking trip we did, plus my normal 'permanent' camera. I've even since discovered a 'Tele-100' disposable camera, which has a 3x zoom lens. However, more recently I've rationalised the photographic armoury somewhat by purchasing an Olympus "mju-zoom105" (a 'permanent' camera) which has a zoom range of 38-105mm (thus doing away with the Tele-100) and is weatherproof (which reduces the need for the waterproof camera). Its horrendously expensive, I think, at \$600 and is one of these highly embarrassing new-generation cameras where everything opens and shuts and winds on with a loud whir which makes heads turn just when you're trying to take that inconspicuous photo (don't these camera manufacturers know people have thumbs that are

actually quite well equipped to do things like manually wind on camera films???) . It's beauty is the extremely compact size and the weatherproofness, however, which means you can stick it in your shirt or jacket pocket instead of grovelling around in your pack every time you want to take a photo.

Nevertheless, I still find the panorama camera useful to carry as a second camera for that occasional shot when the right view arises, while still relying on my permanent camera for the normal and zoom shots. The panorama camera's small size and negligible weight makes this possible (it's all-plastic). However, I note that some permanent cameras on the market now have a panorama switch on them. I didn't bother with this when it came to choosing my permanent camera because I generally use slide film, which limits the effectiveness of the panorama shape - I find it's much better to have a separate print film/camera for panorama shots to gain the most effect by using a large print size. You need to store the panorama camera in its plastic wrapping to keep the lens clean, however, because it doesn't have a lens cover.

TRIP REPORTS

KIME HUT

August 31 - September 1

by Lyn Murphy

Fine weather can be an elusive thing in the Tararuas but we got two days of it for our trip to Kime Hut along with a glider demonstration. We arrived mid afternoon, after a sunny stroll up through the tussock from Field Hut, to find two looping over the snowy tops below Mount Hector. It could have been a scene from Beyond Reach, the Mills & Boon novel Warren had brought to read us, but I think it was real.

Show over...we spent the late afternoon trying to master glissading on a hard icy slope (glad we had first learnt how to self-arrest), cut a few steps and bum slid our way home in the sinking sun. It was Beyond Reach time again. Warren gave us a sentence from every tenth page, censoring certain words like mattress to protect the young ears of our hut companions, teenagers from Viard College, Porirua. Overcome, they went to bed at 8pm along with Dave who was "refusing to bow to peer pressure". The rest of us went out.

Believe it or not, the near-full moon came up red as we wended our way up Mount Hector to fine views of Wellington and the Wairarapa. Warren used the sastrugi-encrusted war memorial cross at the top for a brief but glorious sparkler display and showed us how to find south or something using the stars.

We tossed up taking the Penn Creek route home on Sunday despite DOC warnings of danger and bad slips but eventually decided on the less muddy route we had taken up, meeting Terry and the day trippers on the way down for lunch.

Beyond Reach is literally beyond reach at Kime Hut now but there are allegedly others like it at the Wheeler household if anyone is interested. Thanks to Peter for the continuing snowcraft tips and the fine demonstration with the gingernut. He managed to land it in Warren's tea from the other side of the room.

A reminder about annual hut passes and tickets. You are likely to need them at the more popular Tararua huts. On our trip, one of the Viard College teachers proved to be a very conscientious under-cover hut warden. Peter and his expired hut pass are still on the run.

We were Peter, Warren, Neil, Lyn and Dave.

FIELD HUT Septemember 1 by David Larsen

The first day of spring and true to form it was an excellent day. Seven of us chose to spend the day in the Tararuas with a little physical exercise. At 7:30 am we headed off to Otaki Forks and by 9 am we were making our way on to the track. Terry was one of the seven and he was sporting a very fine haircut, the reason for this he said we would find out later in the week.

Arrived at hut around midday and we were just preparing for lunch when we spotted our fellow trampers - Peter with the weekend group returning from Kime. Lunch was enjoyed together above the hut in the sun while we exchanged experiences. Terry gave us some practical lessons on map and compass reading. Following lunch we separated, with our group going on up to Table top for some rewarding views of the Tararuas, Kapiti, Upper Hutt, etc.

Time for the return and back down it was to a very pleasant afternoon in the valley. The reason for the haircut was revealed - appearing in the pages of the Guardian that week was a photo of our mountain man. A safe journey home left us feeling that this was another day well spent.

We were Chet, Kate, Lawrence, Terry, Pauline, Kath and Dave.

TUNIPO, NGAMOKO RANGE September 9 by Monica Cantwell

Quote from the leader: "Its easy being a leader, just watch everyone stays on the track". We departed at 8am with eleven trampers. On our arrival the weather was okay and not too cold. Our arrival at the Tunipo Heritage Lodge turnoff saw Jenny and her friend take the lower Iron Gates track and the rest set off at a good pace. It is not all uphill with a few flat areas to have a breather on. Lovely bush, several different mosses, but to our horror a long way in was the dreaded "Old Man's Beard". This area was marked when coming out and Judy was to ring to inform what we had found.

We had nibbles and drinks before coming out onto the tops. Our ascent was steady, but we noted the wind had steadily increased greatly, and cloud soon covered us and hail descended. Liz turned to me and said we'll go back. The other four ahead also made the same decision. Our arrival back at the carpark was 4-30pm.

Excellent tramp, excellent company, and a first class leader. We were Serena Bailey (first time out - assured me she would be back for more, not being deterred by the steep climb, strong wind, mist, cold, hail, and not forgetting the mud), also Monica Cantwell, Liz Flint, Judy Callesen, Neville Gray, Carolyn Brodie, Jenny McCarthy, Tracey Francis, Aaron De Malmanche, Greg Hubbard, and our leader Dale Lockart.

Quote: If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way.

DAY STROLL TO RANGI by Tony Gates September 15

Rangi is one of those good places to tramp, with good access to the tussock tops, a good hut, and plenty of tradition for PNTMC. Terry Crippen, Tony Gates, Angela Clay, Chris Saunders, Al Saunders, and Peter Darragh (for a bit) recently went on a day stroll to Rangi.

The weather was unseasonably warm, and the tops were remarkably devoid of snow and ice. Some of us had skied and cramponed all over the Ruahines from May right through November on previous years, but now, it was positively summer-ish up on the tops. Needless to say, skis and crampons remained at home (though we did take a couple of ice axes). We set off from the car park shortly after 9:00 am, and followed the Deadmans track up to the leatherwood, and then the wide open tussock slopes. A pleasant tramping pace, with plenty of time to look about. There was a little mist on the ridge top, so we elected to sidle cross country in the tussock to the main Rangī track, a short cut that showed us all some new country. There was a little leatherwood to push through, and a bit of a grunt, so we were glad for the well worn track back down to Rangī Hut. Weather fine. Lunch, then the familiar descent down the track to the car. Back home early.

THE WEEKEND THAT WASN'T

by Graeme Roberts

September 22nd

This trip into Gold Creek Hut was changed to a day trip due to lack of numbers. Leaving PN at 7am in brilliant weather, 5 of us (and dog) headed for the Makaroro River. From the carpark it is about 40 minutes up the river to Gold Creek. The track starts on the true right of Gold Creek (true left is the start of the Sparrowhawk Biv track) and climbs steeply for half an hour, then gradually levels off on top of the ridge. About one and three-quarter hours on the track brought us to the turnoff with a steep 20 minute descent to Gold Creek Hut (4 bunk - stove - very tidy) where lunch was taken while sunbathing.

As the senior member of the party had done this circuit before, he suggested we return via the creek as "it was a breeze". Just for the record, it was Mick. Never one to doubt his word (I am easily led) we set off at 12-45 pm. We climbed over, under, round & through log jambs; slipped and slithered across the very slippery stream, probably 100 times, to eventually reach the Makaroro about 3 hours later. As this was Dona's first trip with the club, she was pleased to see the car. I hope she will return.

A good day's outing in perfect weather. We were Mick, Trevor, Pauline, dog, Donna, and Graeme.

SUNDAY SEPT 22ND, SUNRISE - WAIPAWA SADDLE

A bright sunny day that simply makes a tramp perfect. Warren, Dave, Lyn, Brent, Adrian and myself headed off at 7:00 am for the trailhead. Arrived 1.75 hours later not 1.25 as our leader, Warren, declared we were ready to go. The gentle grade up to Sunrise hut meant the sweat wasn't dripping too hard. Great views of Ruapehu and Egmont from Armstrong saddle were had and enjoyed most of the way to Te Aatuaoparapara. The little bit of snow was very welcome for a bit of playing on. A delightful walk down from Waipawa Saddle and along the river to the car. Other highlights included seeing a New Zealand Falcon over the ridges, a Blue Duck in the river, and the first few blooms of Mountain Buttercup. Managed to make it back to P.N. just in time to watch the next episode of Pride and Prejudice.

Pauline Mahoney