



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - September 1998

*****THIS ISSUE*****

NEWS:

**Interclub quiz + photo comp, North Range Rd victory,
and changes to membership list . . .
plus 2 book reviews: Moirs Guide, and Everest**

TRIP REPORTS:

**SAR, Snowcraft 3, Pohangina Walkways,
Hemi Matenga, North Range Rd - Tiritea Valley**

CLUB NIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 22	Interclub Quiz Night (7-30pm)	Rangitane Pavilion
SEPTEMBER 24	“South Island off the beaten track”	Harley Betts
OCTOBER 1	Committee meeting	David Grant’s place
OCTOBER 8	“River Rafting & Tramping in Tasmania”	John Phillips
OCTOBER 29	“DoC at Mount Bruce”	Doug Mende

Club nights are held for all club members and visitors on the second and last Thursday of each month at the **Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North**. All club nights commence at 7:45 pm, winter or summer. The PNTMC Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month.

At the club night: Please sign your name in the visitors book. There is a door fee of 50c which includes supper.

UP AND COMING TRIPS & EVENTS

Trip Grades

Grades of trips can depend on many factors, most especially the weather and state of the track. As a guide, a reasonably proficient trumper would be expected to cover the graded trips in about the following times:

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs

Medium (M): 5-6 hrs

Fit (F): about 8 hrs

Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

(T) refers to technical trips requiring special skills and/or gear.

Beginners should start with Easy Grade trips.

Sept 17-18 Thursday trampers
Peter Caver 354-4479

Sept 19-20 Jumbo-Powell M
Graham Roberts 357-8567

A good medium circuit in the eastern Tararuas. Up the Atiwhakatu Valley to Jumbo Hut for the night (another roomy well-appointed hut with gas cookers, just above the bushline). Then up on the tops for great views on the ridge route south to Mt Holdsworth & back down to the carpark. May be reversed if weather forecast is better for Saturday.

Sept 20 Ngauruhoe climb M,T
Peter Wiles 358-6894

Leave PN at 5am for the Mangatepopo road end, so that we can reach the summit by lunchtime - weather conditions permitting. Ngauruhoe is a very good vantage point to view the Tongariro-Ruapehu complex. If you have been on Snowcraft 1 or 2, this would be a good exercise in walking on snow. Snow conditions on the upper part of the peak can vary between hard and soft, so crampons will be needed. For those inclined, the bum-sliding opportunities on the descent are possibly unrivalled in the North Island.

Sept 21 Interclub Photo competition
8pm Massey AHLT2
(see article under "Notices" in this issue)

Sept 22 Interclub Quiz Night
7-30pm Rangitane Pavilion

(see article under "Notices" in this issue)

Sept 24 Thursday trampers
Phil Pearce 354-6687

Sept 24 Club night: "South Island off the beaten track" Harley Betts

Some pretty pictures, a bit of a narrative, and rudimentary directions to a selection of South Island places that are well worth visiting and relatively easy to get to, yet free of the usual hordes of tourists (if not sandflies). Most of these places, in addition to having loads of photographic potential, are excellent for short walks and camping out. Come along and see why we should all be living on the Mainland.

Sept 26-27 Tararua Peaks-Waitaewaewae F/FE
Warren Soufflot 353-0224

Depart Friday evening for a torchlight walk from Otaki Forks up past Field Hut to Kime Hut for the night. Saturday, on to Bridge Peak & then north along the main range, over the Tararua Peaks and down the chain ladder! On to Maungahuka Hut and then Andersons Memorial Hut for the night. Sunday is down to the bush and out through Waitewaewae back to Otaki Forks.

Sept 27 Longview Pohangina Saddle M
Sarah Stratton 353-0387

Depart . Climb up to Longview Hut near a ridgeline in the Southeast Ruahines. From here there are some short sidetrips possible, including across to Pohangina Saddle & up to Otumore on the western ridge for views across the Manawatu. Back down the same way to the carpark.

Oct 1 Thursday trampers
Merv Matthews 357-2858

Oct 1 Committee meeting
Dave Grant's place

Oct 3-4 Field Hut E
Peter Darragh 323-4498

Depart Sat morning A chance to visit one or two of the Huts in the Tararua Ranges in from Otaki. Field Hut is an historic hut just below the bush line for those wanting an Easy grade o/night trip.

Oct 3-4 Kime Hut M
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Transport will be co-ordinated with Peter's Field Hut trip. The Kime Hut trip is for those wanting a Medium grade over night trip to above the bush

line, with the chance for a moon light assault on Mt Hector.

Oct 4 ~~Kapakapanui~~ M
~~Richard Lockett~~

Cancelled.

Oct 8 Thursday trampers
Harrey & Christine Allardice 323-4390

Oct 8 Club night: "River Rafting & Tramping in Tasmania" John Phillips

John will show some slides & tell a few tales about a 13-day rafting trip down the Franklin River through the Southwest Tasmanian wilderness, and some tramping ventures, including the Central Plateau.

Oct 11 Titahi rockclimbing All
Zoe Hart 353 0774

Depart 8am (unless it's raining). This excellent coastal spot near Porirua gives a range of easier grade climbs, mostly single pitch. A helmet is recommended in case of falling rocks & falling cars. Try out leading or climb on top-rope.

Oct 11 Top Maropea Hut M
Neil Campbell 359-5048

Depart 7am for the eastern Ruahines behind Tikokino. After a short stretch of farmland you follow a great track through forest, climbing up to Sunrise Hut on the bushline. Time for a break then up and over the Ruahine Range via Armstrong Saddle, dropping down to Top Maropea Hut in the headwaters of the Maropea catchment. After lunch you will trace your steps back, mostly downhill, to the carpark.

Oct 15 Thursday trampers
Keith Domett 04 562-7322

Oct 17 Wharite leatherwood M
Derek Sharp 326-8178

Come on now all you masochists - a little leatherwood never hurt anybody! (has it?) Derek is departing 8am for this challenge, with the aim of getting north to the 1015-metre peak at the end of the track marked on the Topomap (a track that doesn't exist!). Bring stout jeans and any other potentially useful (ie. protective) clothing, such as workshirt, shin-pads, etc.

Oct 18 TNP1 Tama Peak M
Peter Wiles 358-6894

Depart 6am. Peter's usual walk from Whakapapa into the Tama Lakes - however, venturing a little further to Tama Peak to the east for some views.

Note: Peter may be out of town for a period before this trip, so you can register by putting your name down on the trip sheet at a club night, or leave a message with Warren or Terry.

Oct 22 Thursday trampers
Anne Green 06 3745208

LABOUR WEEKEND

Oct 24-26 TNP2 Tongariro Circuit M/F
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Leave 7am Saturday with breakfast en route. The circuit will start at the park HQ at Whakapapa and one way or another end up at the same place. First day is an easy 5 hours walk through open tussock and alpine flora to Waihohonu Hut, crossing from west to east with great views of Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe and passing Tama Lakes. The circuit continues Sunday with a 6-7 hour walk through a volcanic moonscape, north to Oturere Hut then turning west to cross Oturere Crater & climb out and up to the Emerald Lakes; then down to Ketetahi Hut via the Blue Lake and, for the adventurous, the sulphur lagoon in the Te Mari Craters. On Monday we will climb back up and cross North Crater to the summit of Tongariro and down the long ridge to Mangatepopo Hut. Completing the circuit involves a 3 hour stroll back to Whakapapa or, for the weary, catching the pick-up bus.

day Mitre Flats M
Dave Larsen 329-8054

Depart 7-30am. This is planned for the Sunday of Labour weekend, but may be changed if the weather forecast isn't good. A 3-hour walk through beech forest along the Waingawa River and across the swingbridge to the palatious Mitre Flats Hut. Return the same way.

Oct 29 Thursday trampers
Pam Dransfield 357-0008

Oct 29 Club Night: "DoC at Mount Bruce" Doug Men

Doug is Visitor services Manager at Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre. He has a strong background in natural history & has lectured in environmental science. The talk will focus on how little many people know about the environment they walk in (you will be given a

test) and how more interesting your walk would be if you did.

Trip leaders:

Please discuss with the trips co-ordinator (Terry Crippen 356-3588, or Liz Flint 356-7654), 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.

Trip participants:

If you are interested in going on a trip, please advise the leader **at least three days** in advance.

Trips often leave from the Foodtown carpark in Fergusson Street unless the leader arranges otherwise.

A charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip, the amount depending on the distance travelled and vehicles used. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance.

For general information on the scheduled or alternative tramps please contact one of the trip co-ordinators Terry Crippen (356-3588) or Liz Flint (356-7654).

***** OVERDUE TRIPS *****

Enquiries to: Mick Leyland (358-3183), Liz Flint (356-7654), or Laurence Gatehouse (356-5805)

NOTICES

FROM THE EDITOR

All kinds of articles, whether trip reports, interesting information & anecdotes, book reviews, or even a product review, are welcome for inclusion in this newsletter. If it is a small article, hand-written is okay (deliver to John Phillips, 87 Victoria Avenue) but if handwriting is all you can do, don't let it put you off even large articles.

If you *do* have access to a computer, it does make my job a bit easier if larger articles are on disc. However, more and more people are e-mailing articles to me. If you have the facilities at home or at work, this is a very quick & convenient way to do it.

Please note that my e-mail address has been modified & is now:

john.phillips@mwrc.govt.nz

I use Microsoft Word Version 7.0. 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. If in doubt, try sending any files as an ".RTF" (Rich Text Format) file, which can sometimes be easily converted from one software format to another, or the safest bet is to just cut-and-paste your text directly into your e-mail message.

I can also scan photos for inclusion in the newsletter. If you get photos printed off soon after your trip, please consider submitting them as they add a great deal of interest to your trip report.

Please note the deadline for anything to go in each month's issue is the FIRST THURSDAY of the month.

ATTENTION TRIP LEADERS . . .

A request from the editor:

All of those who are down to lead any weekend or daytrips (not Thursday leaders) for the rest of this year, can you send me a few sentences describing your planned trip, for inclusion in the "Up and Coming Trips & Events" section of each newsletter. Don't forget to include the departure time.

I usually contact leaders to get this a month or two before your trip, but if you can send it to me yourself beforehand (e-mail or hand-written), I won't need to contact you, which saves a lot of my time.

FOR SALE

"Kiwi Camping" 1-2 person dome tent, minor storm damage (both poles broken, probably not a big job to fix), \$50.

Brand new Fotima padded camera bag, shoulder strap type, interior dimensions about 39cm (L) x 20cm (W) x 21cm (D), \$90.

Pertini road bike (tubular tyres), light and very fast, minor (cosmetic) accident damage, \$400 ono.

Contact Harley Betts, 658 Pahiatua Track, ph. 355-4737.

WANTED TO BUY

Crampons + Ice-axe - perhaps from enthusiastic snowcrafters who've lost their enthusiasm. Phone Graham or Janet on 329-4722.

TRAMPERS WANTED

Any bods interested in coming for a wander into the Seaward Kaikouras on Labour Weekend, contact Wayne (358-8043) or Warren (353-0224).

NORTH RANGE ROAD - HALL BLOCK RD

The Tararua District Council proposed to close Hall Block Rd for six months (a temporary closure!), while the Wind Turbine farm was being constructed. If this closure had gone ahead it would have meant that cycling, tramping and walking, and 4WD use of the route from the top of the Pahiatua Track - North Range Road - to Ballance Reserve, would have been off limits for the six months - Spring and Summer. PNTMC, along with Federated Mountain Clubs and Levin Waiopahu Tramping Club and others including club members lodged objections. The Council withdrew its proposal. So you can still use this route.

So objections to closures or stopping (permanant closure) of paper, disused, etc roads does work. So if you hear of any such proposals (often as public notices) and you think it will restrict your recreation activities, be in and object. And bring it to the notice of the Club.

INTERCLUB QUIZ NIGHT

The annual quiz between members of PNTMC, MTSC, MUAC, and Mountain Equipment will be held in the MTSC meeting venue - Rangitane Pavilion, on The Square under the City Council battleship - at 7-30pm on Tuesday 22nd September, the night after the Interclub Photo Competition out at Massey. Come along and support our team, and to have a laugh (at the other teams, that is) - the more supporters our team has, the better. You may learn interesting snippets about tramping, climbing, NZ, overseas - as well as trivial facts(?!).

INTERCLUB PHOTO COMPETITION

The Massey University Alpine Club would like to invite members of our club to attend an Inter-Club Photo and Slide Competition. It is to be held on **Monday 21st Sept (not 28th September as stated in last newsletter)** at **8pm** in **Massey Ag Hort lecture theatre 2**.

Only the winning entries from each of the 3 clubs' annual photo competitions can be entered. This is to keep the time required for judging at a comfortable level. Terry has collected them from our winners and place getters beforehand.

The categories (with a separate section in each for prints and slides) are:

- 1) Flora and fauna
- 2) People and places
- 3) Alpine
- 4) Landscape
- 5) Action

Come along and give the PNTMC slides your support, see other good slides from MUAC and MTSC, and meet people from the other clubs. If you're not sure how to get to the venue, phone Terry (356-3588) or Sarah (357-0162).

CORRECTIONS TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following two changes should be made to the membership list that was included in the last newsletter:

Sarah Stratton -

phone no. 353-0387 (not 353-0387)

Wayne Bennett -

home phone no. 358-8043

“MOIR'S GUIDE - NORTH” *Geoff Spearpoint*
A book review by Peter Wiles

This is the sixth and completely revised (1998) edition of this tramping publication which has its origin back in 1925 with Mr Moir. For those not familiar with this publication and its southern cousin, the northern guide does not deal with the North Island or even the northern half of the South Island but the area north of Lake Wakatipu and south of Mt Cook National Park. (The Southern Guide covers the Fiordland region.) The book is sub-divided into four further sub-regions: south-east region (area between Lakes Wakatipu

and Wanaka and east of the Main Divide), south-west region (area between the Hollyford and Haast rivers and west of the Divide), north-east region (north of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea and north as far as the Hopkins/Dobson rivers) and finally the north-west region (north of Haast up as far as the Karangarua River).

This book is of principle use to the expeditionary trapper who wishes to conduct trips off the main routes and visit some of the most remote (and superb) country that is hidden within these vast and complex regions. Geoff has done a superb job in producing this book. The route information is fully revised and up dated - with much important detail that earlier editions lacked. (It is only in recent years that parts of this region had 1:50,000 metric series map coverage.) Geoff makes good use of this by providing specific grid references at crucial junctures on routes. (Needless to say a good knowledge of map reading is required, but for those with personal GPS devices at hand there is potential to pinpoint your travel to the specified reference point!) Route and some bivvy rock location information is also detailed on B/w photos used liberally to complement the text. The book is also very well organised with a comprehensive index and an initial chapter on general information. Full credit.

In his forward, Geoff makes the comment: "Old blaze lines are now less able to be followed, and there are few "obvious deer trails.." Many of the blazed tracks permollated by the NZ Forest Service are not maintained by DOC and some bridges and huts have been removed." This reinforces my perception that DOC is catering only for the high density popular routes. This increases the need for a publication such as this one.

There are many people in the club that have done more trips in this area than I have. However, I could not resist the temptation to read up on Geoff's route advice on some routes that I am familiar with. His route suggestions up the Cascade River (south of Haast) are accurate - laced with some sound advice: "If the river is low, some strategic crossings on the flats will speed things up but take care. The Cascade is a large river and there are few safe crossings, unless the river is very low. Often the river can be running high and deceptively deep, but still appear clear". Very true: I will not forget in a hurry finding myself in water over the top of my head, or

watching large trout swimming in pools perhaps more than 6 m deep. I then checked another route (Canyon Creek in the Ahuriri valley). This was a route that we got off route on and ended up doing a rope job. The key turnoff around the bluff (the centre of our problems) is detailed with a grid reference and the bivvy rock is described as "not entirely weatherproof". Fortunately it was fine during our stay. Finally I looked up the details of the route from the Lower Otoko Pass down into the Otoko Valley. I have a slight concern here. The giude states: "The lower Otoko Glacier is fast becoming a lake. The eastern lake edge is bluffed. The SW lake edge can still be sidled at present (1997) but icemelt can be expected to cut that off too. An alternative route is described." Although it is probably 8+ years since I visited this area, the SW side of the lake was negotiable easily enough but the stream/river some distance beyond was not passable as it cut into bluffs and was not crossable. (It was in flood.) (There may be a presumption that the stream/river is normally readily crossable.) We had to back-track and found the eastern side straightforward. I guess the lesson for trips in these areas is to swat up the most recent route information that you can get your hands on, but never take it for granted. Consider your options and be prepared to consider alternatives and adapt according to the actual conditions encountered.

If you aspire to get into this region, then this is the book for you. Available through FMC.

“EVEREST - MOUNTAIN WITHOUT MERCY”

by Broughton Coburn

A book review by Tony Gates
[Introduction by Tim Cahill, afterword by David Breashears (1997). MacGillivray Freeman Films (IMAX). National Geographic Society and National Science Foundation.]

This is a large and glossy book. It is the story of the high profile American company IMAX filming an international expedition to the summit of Mt Everest during the ill fated month of May 1996. The book has wonderful photographs (of course), with numerous useful maps and diagrams throughout.

IMAX film format is ten times larger than the standard 35 mm frame, and a single 500 ft long reel of film lasts 90 seconds! Film scripts had to

be extremely carefully planned, and reloading film on the summit had to be done with bare hands! Logistically, the size and weight of tripods, cameras, and accessories was an incredibly daunting prospect for the climbers, especially so at high altitude. All camera equipment had to be re designed for the expedition, after which the camera alone weighed 25 kg! They say that the resultant film and its quality is pretty amazing.

The team was led by David Breashears (USA), with Ed Viesturs (USA), Robert Schauer (Austria), Jamling Tenzing Norgay (Nepal, son of Ed Hillary's 1953 partner), Araceli Segarra (Spain), Sumiyo Tsuzuki (Japan), and many climbing sherpas. Support was provided at Base Camp by several others, and from USA by numerous Advisers, Scientists, etc, with all the latest communication equipment.

Typical of big books of big expeditions, the chapters introduce the climbers, the region, and the reasons for climbing. There are tails of Kathmandu. Yaks, and Buddhism, then mountaineering from Base Camp to the summit and back. Guest authors provide journalistic snippets of extra information on such details as ethnic differences, medical issues, geology, history, mountain guiding, and personalities.

A few days before Breashears attempted the summit, the much publicised deaths of New Zealand Guides Rob Hall, and Andy Harris (and 4 others), and two rescues, occurred. There is of course much drama and emotion of such a tragedy, making Breashears eventual summit bid even more dramatic.

[The closest IMAX theatre for us at the moment is in Sydney. They are planning to build one in Auckland, and the first movie screening will be - you guessed it - "Mountain Without Mercy".]

TRIP REPORTS

A SUCCESSFUL SEARCH AND RESCUE

- no thanks to TELECON

Wednesday 8th July by Terry Crippen

The club was involved in a successful SAR: two parties of 2 people reported overdue on a Oroua River - Iron Gates - Ngamoko range - Tunupo overnight tramp.

On the evening of the 7th one of the parties was reported overdue to the PN police by their family who were waiting for them at the Heritage Lodge road end. The police contacted Hugh Wilde, one of the local SAR search co-ordinators (a MTSC member), and discussed the situation with Hugh. (At the same time one of the overdue parties family was tramping in to Iron Gates hut to check things out). Come Wednesday morning a general state of confusion was about to begin due to the major Telecom phone system failure! Initially it was impossible for any communication between the Police, The Search Coordinator and the overdue party's family. Even the 111 system was out. Word of mouth, some cell phone connections and some email addresses eventually came to the rescue so the search procedure could be initiated. As I work with Hugh he was able to clue me up on the events and I began to try to

contact PNTMC people on our SAR team list (one email and one internal phone call success). It was soon decided due to the deteriorating weather to send in the Rescue helicopter for a reconnaissance search. As I was familiar with the area and had recently done the same circuit (in reverse) on a club trip I reluctantly agreed to go in the chopper. So a quick rush home and a pack and down to the chopper hanger at the airport, To fly in at midday with Peter Coss (police), Pam Lamb (paramedic) and of course Guy Beange the pilot.

At this stage we found out that a second party was missing, but due to the lack of phone communication it hadn't been reported missing yet. According to others at Iron Gates hut this second party had left half an hour behind the first to do the same route: up onto the northern end of the Ngamoko Range, south to Tunupo and down the track to by Heritage Lodge and then to the road end. We concluded that it was highly likely that the two parties would have met up, so we may be looking for a group of four.

Choppering up to the road end we unloaded gear, discussed the situation with concerned relatives and the Kimbolton Police. At this stage we

received an official overdue party communication - a party of two doing the same circuit. A third lost party? No, just a belated communication that finally got through Telecons chaos? Getting more detail about the four we then took off again following the parties planned route to see if we could spot them. Being the university and school holidays there were five or more parties in the area. We initially had to eliminate one lot of four sighted from above. The next lot of four was sighted heading down the side track upstream of the Tunupo Camp sight. They were waving frantically and met the description (2 males, 2 females, one purple pack etc). So with some careful descending Guy was able to perch the Chopper on some rocks on the River edge, so that Peter could get out and assess the situation. Fit and well and well fed. But it was still decided to chopper them out. This involved two trips to the car park and lots of welcomes and hugs. Then by chopper back to town for Pamela, Guy, Peter and I.

The parties had run into poor visibility on the tops and had overestimated their progress, so had turned down a spur before the Tunupo track one. On realising the mistake, had backtracked, retracing their steps. With the short winter daylight hours they ended up having a reasonable bivvy just off the side of the range in some sheltering scrub. They had adequate equipment ground sheets, space blankets, spare food and cookers etc. In the morning they retraced their steps back to Iron Gates and down the side track where we met them.

POHANGINA WALKWAYS

Sunday, 26 July by Janet Wilson

Three of us set out about 9am for an easy morning checking out the two Pohangina Walkways.

The Beehive Creek walk was first - we left a car at each end and walked up the hill, over the farmland and down the stream, almost managing to keep our feet dry. It was a grey, cold morning and as we looked over at Maharahara conditions didn't look too nice for the club party doing the crossing that day.

That walk over very quickly, we then drove to the top of the Branch Road Walkway and walked downhill (a change of scene from walking up). The track is in good order with no mud - no sign of cattle on it this winter. We wandered back to

our house nearby for a 1pm lunch, then Monica headed home.

We were Monica Cantwell, Graham Peters and Janet Wilson.

TOTARA FLATS alias Hemi Matenga

1-2 August by Liz Morrison

On investigation of the Totara Flats track I decided as a winter "Family" trip it was for the birds. There was unavoidable calf-deep mud in places and not only was Totara Creek marginal but there were four quite troublesome side creeks, knee deep, with slippery vertical access. "The book" describes this as a "mostly flat walk". Also the bridge over the Waiohine is the longest I've seen, except between Crow and Venus over the Karamea, with a warning notice of "dangerous in windy conditions".

Totara Flats Hut itself is cosy with a pot-belly stove and nestled beside a grove of totara with a lovely view down the flats. We'll go in the summer when there is less likelihood of being catapulted from the bridge into the swift wide Waiohine and heavy rain warnings for the Tararuas.

So . . . four persons, three hounds and a medium-sized boy (very compatible with hounds) decided on a day trip to Hemi Matenga, the low range behind Waikanae. The track is well benched up through nikau palms, rimu and other tall canopy trees, gradually diminishing in height till you emerge into the open with a wide vista of the coast and Kapiti Island.

A few minutes farther on is a sheltered lunch spot looking towards Kapakapanui and the Akatarawas; very welcome as a bitter southerly front was approaching. (From here you can continue for a longer tramp along the ridge line and down by a steeper track.) After a swift trot back down we enjoyed a cuppa at Waikanae Beach.

We were: Liz, Monica, Pauline, Theo, Amy, Bonnie and Rosemary.

SNOWCRAFT 3

22-23 August by Janet Wilson

Ten people, including 3 instructors, traveled up to the Manawatu Club's luxurious lodge at Top-of-

the-Bruce on a beautifully clear Friday night. Radio reports during the day had indicated that heaps of snow had fallen so all cars had chains. The road, however, was clear. We were well laden for the short walk to the lodge, with bread, fruit and 5 dozen eggs. Before going to bed a start time for the morning was negotiated - some rebellion from the troops against the suggested 8am start amended it to 8-30/9-00 am.

Saturday morning was beautifully clear though a little windy. We headed to the NZAC hut, above which there was adequate snow. We found a sheltered gully and did some cramponing and self-arresting practice. I was most impressed with Terry's dedication to instruction as he demonstrated self-arresting from a tumbling fall!

After lunch we split up and practised short pitches on steeper slopes. There were a few skiers but they were probably outnumbered by climbers and trampers. Back at the lodge dinner was cooked for us by the other large group staying there.

Sunday - another lovely morning. We were down on numbers as Nigel, Cathy and Sarah had headed home so we had an excellent ratio of 3 instructors to 4 students. We tramped over to the Pinnacles and found a cold, shady gully to practice pitches on - this time using the full length of rope which was good. A lot was learnt here - especially how to efficiently manage all your rope/gear etc. Some of us found this quite challenging, especially the steeper icier bits.

It was good to get onto the ridge into the sun (but into the wind). A late lunch was had here with views towards the Desert Road and Ngauruhoe - after lunch, some of us carried on to the top of the easternmost pinnacle before we all headed down, assisted by a ride on the chairlift back to the cars. We offloaded most of the gear then went back to

the lodge to pack up etc. Then back home via the Ohakune kebab shop.

Thanks to instructors Bruce van Brunt, Terry Crippen and Dave Henwood. The rest of us were: Sarah, Matt, Nigel, Jess, Cathy, Graham and Janet (scribe).

NORTH RANGE ROAD / TIRITEA VALLEY

Sunday 23rd August

by Katherine Lauchland- Farquhar

Well, the weather forecast was good and access was open . . . But alas, the wind was cold and blowing so hard that donning extra gear outside the vehicles was challenge enough! We 're-located to the Tiritea Valley and enjoyed a relatively sheltered amble along the 4-wheel drive track - through forest and farmland. Nice to see some expansive landscape so close to the city. Keep a look out for mountain bikers though!

We were: Joshua, Jocelyn, Brendon, Linda, Pauline, and Katherine.

Club Patron	: Lawson Pither	357-3033
President	: Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Vice President	: Terry Crippen	356-3588
Secretary	: Sarah Todd	357-0612
Treasurer	: Peter Wiles	358-6894
Membership Enquiries	: Liz Flint	356-7654
	: Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Gear Custodian	: Mick Leyland	358-3183
Newsletter Editor	: John Phillips	357-9009 (work)
deliver articles/disks to:	87 Victoria Avenue, P.N.	358-1874 (home)
e-mail articles to:	phillips@mwrc.govt.nz	
Trip Co-ordinators	: Terry Crippen	356-3588
	: Liz Flint	356-7654

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