

PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - June 2000

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

**New tripcard, Snowcraft 2000, Annual Photo Comp *this month*,
and a letter from Maree (DoC, Arthurs Pass)**

***** LAST CALL FOR SUBS *****

TRIP REPORTS:

**Huxley Valley (Sth Is.), Mania – Kelly Knights,
Haurangi Forest Park, Crawford – Nichols, SAR**

CLUB NIGHTS

JUNE 29	ANNUAL PHOTO COMPETITION	Murray Woodcock
JULY 6	Committee Meeting	Peter Wiles' place
JULY 13	“Ladakh”	Sarah Lieberman
JULY 27	“Stewart Island & The Hollyford”	Liz Flint

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 **sharp**, 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. A 50c door fee 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.

15 June Thursday trampers
Donna Hayes 328-2878

17-18 June McKinnon Hut M
Tony Gates 357-7439

Yes yes yes, back to one of the club's traditional favourite places, back to the tussock tops of the Hikurangi Range- a lovely spot. This time, Tony wants to experience Winter up there, with every chance of some snow, ice, and frost, so come prepared. Depart Saturday 8am for Kawhataua Base, then we should arrive at McKinnon Hut by late afternoon. We will return late- ish Sunday.

18 June Blue Range M
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Depart 8.00am. This trip will make an anti-clockwise loop trip to the Blue Range Hut and takes us through a variety of forest types up into the alpine scrub. The route follows the first stage of the Mid-fold Traverse. We will follow an old logging track upstream and climb up through the beech forest and along a ridge to the beauty little hut in time for lunch. Return via the track.

22 June Thursday trampers
Monica Cantwell 326-9291

MIDWINTER CELEBRATIONS - Rangataua

24-25 June Social Activities & Tramping
All Mick Leyland 358-3183

Depart Fri night or Saturday morning. Once again we will stay in Rangataua thanks to the hospitality of Sue and Lawson Pither, our Club Patron. Their Lodge has plenty of room inside but if you prefer an alpine experience there is tent space on the lawn. With any luck there will be plenty of snow around and skiing along the road. Come prepared

for a fun weekend with a Millennium Retro theme. We will start with a Retro-ascent of Ruapehu, or one of several other walks for the non-climbers. The evening celebrations on Saturday night continue the Retro theme with "Tweed, Leather and Lace" setting the style of dress. BYO and a Pot-Luck Dinner. We will also swap Merry-Samx-ness gifts (each about \$2) to celebrate the Southern Xmas and the passing of the first shortest day of the Millennium. Sunday will probably be less strenuous, a Retro-recovery day, but will depend on how everyone feels. May the good times roll!

29 June Thursday trampers
John Stantiall 354-5521

29 June **Club Night: ANNUAL PHOTO
& SLIDE COMPETITION**

A club highlight of the year, with plenty of different categories & awards. Murray Woodcock will be our judge for the night.

See article below under "Notices" for details.

1-2 July Iron Peg - Pourangaki Hut F
Janet Wilson 329-4722

Depart 6-30am. A fit-graded loop in the central/west Ruahines. Up via Purity & Wooden/Iron Peg and SE along Hawkes Bay range before dropping down across the Pourangaki Valley. The night will be spent in Pourangaki Hut, equipped with nice warm pot belly, and lots of coal on recent visits. Sunday we will climb onto the Whanahuia Range before dropping down to Kelly Knights Hut & out to the cars. Prepare for snow (at least an ice axe).

2 July Manawatu Gorge Walkway E
Stuart Hubbard 356-8782

Depart 9am. A short-ish tramp of a few hours or so & well graded. One way, so we'll relay a car to the other end. A nice walk through superb bush on Palmerston North's doorstep.

6 July Thursday trampers
Jill Spenser 329-8738

6 July Committee meeting
Peter Wiles' place (12 Jensen St)

8-9 July Howletts-Sawtooth F
Warren Wheeler 356-1998
(work: 952-2840)

Depart 7.30am. A classic winter tramp in the mid-eastern Ruahines. From the end of Mill Rd we will go up the Tukituki River to Daphne Hut and then on up to Howletts Hut. On Sunday if conditions are favourable we will traverse the snow-clad Mt Tiraha and Sawtooth Ridge then out along Black Ridge and loop back to the road-end via the Roswell track and the river again.

8-9 July Daphne hut E
Llew Prichard 358-2217

Depart 9am. Cruisy start to a cruisy 2 -3 hr stroll into Daphne Hut. Start at Moorcock Base, cut over the farmland, a few ups and downs through the native bush then up the Tukituki river to the hut. May cut back along the ridge on Sunday and come out via Longview Hut. Bring plenty of food and warm gear. Hope for a bit of snow.

13 July Thursday trampers
Graham Pritchard 357-1393

13 July **Club night: "Ladakh"
with Sarah Lieberman**

Ladakh is in northern India, encompassing the Himalayan Peaks near Kashmir. Sarah will talk about her 10-day trek above 3500m from Padun in the Zanskar Valley to Lamayuru. Sarah should have some great slides with this kind of subject.

15 July Coppermine Creek E
Terry Crippen 356-3588

Depart 8am Located close to Woodville in the Ruahines, Coppermine Creek has a well maintained track that takes us to some of the old coppermine workings - first worked in the 1880s - and the magazine (a short tunnel used to store the explosives). Nearby are various tailings and railway track materials. Also a pleasant stream and regenerating bush. Can return the same way or via the spur track. Bring a torch. Back early afternoon.

16 July Knights-Toka-Shorts M/F
Pete McGregor w356-7154/ h 021 256-9001
email: mcgregorp@landcare.cri.nz

Depart 8:00 a.m. from the information sign on the Pohangina Road (just past the Valley Road intersection, or 100 m or so past the Waterford Cafe-bar...). From the Limestone Road carpark beyond Sixtus Lodge, we climb to the top of the range via Knights Track, to enjoy the huge views across to both sides of the Island and into the

Pohangina above Leon Kinvig hut. We then head south along the range (mostly downhill) to the top of Shorts Track, which takes us back to the cars.

20 July Thursday trampers
Rose & Ken Hall 356-8538

22-23 July Arete Biv FE
Derek Sharp 326-8178

Head into Herepai Hut Friday night, then up along Dundas Ridge to Arete Biv for Saturday night. A long and challenging day Sunday, with a traverse of Bannister and Waingawa, before a cruise along Cattle Ridge, and down and out to the car via Roaring Stag Lodge.

23 July Mt Cook - K2 all/T
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

(work: 952-2840)

Depart 6am. Millennium Madness Strikes Again! Are you going on Snowcraft this year or still thinking about it? Do you need to practise your climbing and rope skills? Feel the need to conquer the highest peaks in the area? Feel like a Millennium Challenge to tell your grand-children? Yes? Then join us for a dawn climb of the icy South Face of K2, followed by a hearty breakfast at Base Camp, then de-camp and move on to ascend Mt Cook by noon.

Crampons, ice axes and ropes are essential but our experienced guides will help you obtain these beforehand and ensure you successfully reach the summits.

27 July Applications close for Snowcraft 1
See information regarding the Snowcraft Programme in the NOTICES.

27 July Thursday trampers
Russell Johnson 358-7777

27 July **Club night: "Stewart Island
and The Hollyford" with Liz Flint**

An evening with Liz talking about the highlights of her ventures in the deep south last summer, including a 12-day NW circuit on Stewart Island, and the Demon Trail in the lower Hollyford. There will be no slides, so it will be a short-ish evening, but Liz will bring some photos along. She will also have some contacts and phone numbers if you are planning a similar trip in these areas.

Trip participants:

If you are interested in going on a trip, please contact the leader at least three days in advance. Trips usually leave from the Foodtown carpark in Fergusson Street with transport provided by car-pooling. 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 or any suggestions for future tramps please contact one of the trip co-ordinators Terry Crippen (356-3588), Janet Wilson (329-4722) or David Grant (357-8269).

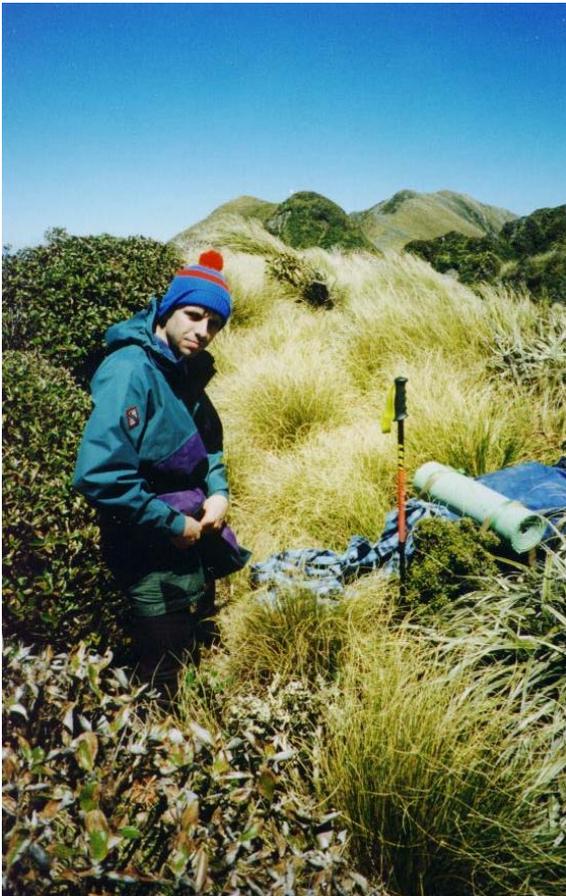
Trip leaders: Please discuss with the trip co-ordinators, as soon as possible, if there is any doubt that you will be unable to run your trip as scheduled. This is so that alternatives can be arranged, put in the newsletter, or passed on at club night.

*** OVERDUE TRIPS ***

Enquiries to: Mick Leyland (358-3183), Terry Crippen (356-3588), or David Grant (357-8269)

NOTICES

THE EDITOR HAS *MOVED* . . .



[Photo by Barry Scott]

. . . not to the Tararuas, but to the sunnier climes of Feilding. My new residential address is now:

**9 Ranfurly Rd, Feilding
Phone 323-4582**

I am still at the same work address:

horizons.mw

11-15 Victoria Ave, PN

Direct phone line: 952-2857

Because I'm now in Feilding, you're welcome to use the work address to drop off any handwritten articles. My e-mail address remains the same at:

john.phillips@horizons.govt.nz

There has been a steady procession of great trip reports and snippets coming in & this month is no exception – keep them coming in folks, we wanna hear about where YOU'VE been tramping.

John Phillips (Editor)

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

All kinds of articles (trip reports, interesting information & anecdotes, book reviews, product reviews, etc etc) are welcome for inclusion in this newsletter. Articles may be hand-written or sent by e-mail to the newsletter editor John Phillips (see address on end page).

It is preferable to include your article as an attachment (please use Microsoft Word Version 7.0 or Rich Text Format), unless it is quite a small article, in which case it is fine to cut-&-paste into the e-mail.

Note that scanned **photos** must be sent with a covering e-mail (or phone call to John) to:

postmaster@horizons.govt.nz.

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

EVENTS CARD FOR JULY - DEC 2000

The Events Card for the rest of the year is out. Lots of winter trips with those lovely clear crisp

winter days up in the snow. Then spring time trips to prepare for the summer holidays. Thank you all you leaders who have committed yourselves to lead trips. I'm sure all club members will actively support this good effort by going on lots of these trips and events. Encourage flatmates, partners, parents, family and friends to come on these trips as well.

Please read the comments, regarding the grading of trips and participating on these, printed on the events card and at the start and finish of the listings in the Newsletter.

For further info. contact trip leaders, or the trip co-ordinators: Terry Crippen 356-3588, Janet Wilson 329-4722, or Dave Grant 357-8269

A range of club evenings have been organised, with members and outside speakers and the EOY BBQ. Please try to come along to as many of OUR club nights as possible. As well as the excellent selection of topics being presented, club nights are a good chance for a chat and to hear what others have been up to. Our Club night organizer is Warren Wheeler, phone 356-1998 for futher info.

Terry

GUIDE FOR TRIP LEADERS, PINK HELP FORM, AND TRIP FEEDBACK FORM Terry
These three forms are always available at club nights - either up the back or on our bookcase.

TRIP LEADERS don't forget your responsibilities when planning and leading trips. Make use of the Guide for Trip Leaders. Please take a copy or two - take one with you on each tramp you lead for continuing reference. This guide is also good value for all trip participants as it gives you an idea what's involved.

The pink "Help" form is put out by the NZ Mountain Safety Council for possible Search and Rescue purposes. TRIP LEADERS take some copies and fill them in or use as a guide to compile details, prior to the trips departure.

The Trip Feedback form is designed for getting feedback, either positive or negative, from those trips you go on, so the club can ENHANCE YOUR OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES. Take some copies or ask your trip leader, fill them in and drop into the flowery box at the back at club nights after trips.



SNOWCRAFT INSTRUCTION 2000

SNOW GLORIOUS SNOW

Each year the club runs a snowcraft instruction programme to equip people with the skills to safely get out and about into the white stuff on winter trips and down south over the summer holidays: basic skills for straight forward travel in snow on easy terrain, simple snow climbing, to aspects of technical snow and ice climbing and mountaineering.

The instruction programme is in three parts; SC 1 (basic), SC 2 (intermediate) and SC 3 (advanced). It involves three weekends away up Mt Ruapehu and/or Mt Egmont and two Wednesday night evenings (*not* Tuesdays, as printed in the May newsletter) preceeding SC1 and SC2. A progressive approach is used: SC 1 assumes nil or only minor experience with snow, SC 2 develops skills learnt on SC 2, and SC 3 on those of SC 2.

Costs: SC1 \$120, SC2 \$130, SC3 \$100, or a one off payment of \$335

Registration: Places on each weekend are limited. Confirmation of places on the complete or part programme requires registration form accompanied by the fee, to be accepted by the organisers.

Programme Dates:

27 July (Club night) *Applications close for SC1*
2 August (Wed evening) *SC1 Intro and briefing*
[*Note: changed from Tuesday in May newsletter*]
5 -6 August *SC1 Weekend Mt Ruapehu*
(*depart Friday night*)

10 August (Club night) *Application close for SC2*
16 August (Wed evening) *SC2 Intro to rope work*
[*Note: changed from Tuesday in May newsletter*]
19-20 August SC2 Mt Ruapehu (*dep Friday night*)

24 August *Applications close for SC3*
2-3 Sept *SC3 Mt Egmont (depart Sat morning)*

Open to both club members and non club members. Pass the word round to any friends you know who are keen to get into snow activities.

For further information & registration forms
contact Terry Crippen 3563-588, Warren Wheeler
356-1998, or Bruce van Brunt 328-4761

LAST CALL FOR SUBS

If you don't get your cheque to PNTMC at PO
Box 1217, or pay Peter Wiles, our Treasurer, at
club night, then this will be your last newsletter -
sorry folks! Subs are still at the bargain price of
\$30 ordinary and \$35 family.

WEDNESDAY TRAMPING

Come & join us every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the
month. Nice easy tramps – no rush. One
Wednesday last month we had 18 people out on
the Mangaone Walkway. Please ring:

Bev	325-8879
Monica	326-9691
Judy	357-0192

TARARUA & RIMUTAKA HISTORY

You may be familiar with the (green) chronology
which has been available for sale since about
1995. An A4 supplement of 6 pages, which
updates and amends the 1995 booklet, is available
from the author, at the address below. Copies cost
\$3 (incl. postage). The 64-page booklet is also
still available at \$10 (incl. postage).

Ross Kerr
P.O.Box 540
LEVIN
(06) 368-6157

Ross is a member of the Levin-Waiopahu
Tramping Club, and the booklet is a non-profit
making venture.

THE MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE

Just what does the committee do? Well, this will
give you some idea of the areas that each
committee member and delegated club member is
involved with. Yes, its a big long list - surprising
isn't it? Fortunately many hands make light work,
thanks to everyone doing their bit. The main list
of club officers is on the back page - the following
are mostly all the unsung jobs that keep the
PNTMC going strong.

<i>Membership Enquiries</i>	Warren Wheeler, Liz Flint, Sarah Todd
<i>Club Night Coordinator</i>	Warren Wheeler
<i>Supper</i>	Mick Leyland, Terry Crippen
<i>Host Organiser</i>	Warren Wheeler

<i>Phone Tree</i>	Warren Wheeler
<i>Maps & FMC Orders</i>	Peter Wiles
<i>Gear custodian</i>	Mick Leyland
<i>Trips Co-ordinators</i>	Terry Crippen, David Grant, Janet Wilson
<i>Mid-week trips & MTSC contact</i>	Liz Flint
<i>Overdue Trips Contacts</i>	Terry Crippen, Mick Leyland, David Grant
<i>SAR Contacts</i>	Terry Crippen, Mick Leyland, Warren Wheeler
<i>Snowcraft Organiser</i>	Terry Crippen
<i>Navigation & River Crossing Instruction</i>	Terry Crippen
<i>Mountain Safety Contact</i>	Terry Crippen
<i>MUAC Contact</i>	Sarah Todd
<i>FMC Contact</i>	Mick Leyland
<i>Advertising - papers</i>	Warren Wheeler
<i>- town</i>	Monica Cantwell
<i>Library, photo album, scrap book</i>	David Grant
<i>Conservation Submissions</i>	Tony Gates
<i>Funding Applications</i>	Bruce Van Brunt
<i>Archives</i>	Peter Wiles
<i>Newsletter Distribution</i>	Peter Wiles
<i>Printing Trip Cards</i>	Peter Wiles
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	John Phillips

Volunteers are always welcome to help with the
supper dishes at club nights, and it is amazing the
gossip one can pick up!

Thanks everyone.
Warren Wheeler, President.

LETTER FROM MAREE

Hi everyone, from the deep, cold, beautiful South.

I am loving it down here. I love the mountains and
the trees and the snow and the birds and the
golden tussock. I often go to sleep to the sound of
kiwi calling up the valley and one night they
treated me to what sounded like an argument,
right outside my house. The Keas give me a hard
time on some of my early morning runs but I can
handle them laughing at me cause they make such
sweet little sounds. I had a great day out up
Avalanche Peak one day when they were all
swooping around me - they are amazing flyers. I
got some great photos but spent so much time
trying to get them it really put the pressure on me
for completing my tramp and getting out of the
hills before dark. They (the keas) are also smart
enough not to come near my house which means
we can maintain a friendly relationship!

It is so beautiful, vast and enduring up here, and although I enjoy going to the big smoke (Chch) to shop etc I often feel like I am having to tearing myself away from the mountains. My life style has changed quite a bit and I miss the tramping club, climbing, movies, friends, cycling to work and kebabs. However I have a beautiful 10 min very peaceful walk to and from work, and I have taken on the challenge of running the road (north or south - the only choices) in the morning darkness. It is very windy and narrow and I have to pull over to give vehicles the right of way, but there are glow worms on sections of it and the sun is usually rising (it doesn't rain all the time down here!) on my return trip.

I have also been doing a bit of tramping on my own - mostly long one day trips. There are so many beautiful places to go down here and the hardest thing is finding the time to get out. In fact (and it is a fact that I am very proud of!) my house (a one bedroom place with a fire to snuggle up in front of at night - and man you need it) is past the first track marker on the Mt Bealey route so I do a short (very) bush walk every day! (when I choose not to go up my drive). I am going to try and link up with the ChCh tramping or alpine club over the winter as a way of getting out to a few more places. To be perfectly honest, (no matter how good my own company might be!) I sometimes find myself thinking that "this would be better right now if I wasn't by myself" ie at the top of big scary looking scree slopes and at the end of long tiring days as you rock crawl down long grey river valleys.

At the moment I am still trying to purchase gear to replace mine that was stolen (my car and bike and lots of clothes, climbing gear and other things were stolen on the day I was to move down here - yes that's a different theft from the one at Christmas time for those of you that knew about that - it's lucky I like shopping!). I have just got a hammer (I got it second hand), but am dithering and being tight over crampons and an axe - insurance didn't pay out this time - major bummer.

Well, I better get back to work. It is flat out down here and has been since I arrived. It is a steep learning curve but to live life and dreams, you have to step out there some times. If anyone is coming down this way I would love to see you. Just call into the DoC Visitors Centre and ask for me or better still give me a call and let me know that you are coming through and I can maybe help

you with your plans and/or make sure I am around.

Well, I hope your lives are all going well up there and you have much to smile about. Peace and happiness always

Maree Limpus
PO Box 35
Arthur's Pass

ANNUAL PHOTO COMPETITION

The club's annual photo competition will be held at the club night on Thursday, June 24. The usual rules for the competition apply:

- Slides/prints must not have been entered previously
- All entries must be related to tramping, skiing or climbing
- All slides must have a cross on the bottom left-hand corner of the mount for normal viewing (ie. top right-hand corner when loaded into the carousel)
- All slides and photos must be labelled (on back for photos!) with author's name, and entry category chosen from list below. NOTE: Slides and prints not marked prior to judging in the manner outlined here WILL BE REJECTED (sorry but this is essential to facilitate smooth running of the event).
- Limit of 3 slides per person per category, but no limit on prints.

Categories:

1. *Alpine (NZ)*. Predominantly alpine scenery in NZ (ie. above bushline)
2. *Scenic (NZ)*. Scenes of natural pictorial interest in NZ hills, coasts, etc. (ie. predominantly below the bushline)
3. *Natural History (NZ)*. NZ flora & fauna, or detail of interest eg. geology, ice formations, etc.
4. *Topical (NZ)*. People in tramping, climbing, or skiing related activities in NZ.
5. *Overseas Alpine or Scenic*. Related to tramping, etc. overseas or Scenic
6. *Overseas People*. Climbers or people met while tramping, climbing overseas.

Formats: Slides, black-and-white prints, colour prints. Prints do not need to be mounted. Prints may be judged as one group or separated at the judge's discretion, depending on numbers.

The system for judging winners is a democratic one – a show of hands, after the guiding advice of our guest photographic expert, Murray Woodcock.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES by Tony Gates

Here is a summary of the reference list of all known PNTMC Newsletter articles. The complete list is nearly as fat as a small telephone book, so won't be printed here, but will be available on request. I wasn't really sure what the purpose of the list was at first, but I was sure that, once started, it would certainly be finished. A time consuming, but *very* enjoyable job. I think it is useful, at least for referencing articles. Many articles have historical value, although one must remember that tracks grow over and some huts disappear. The list might even assist you when planning a trip.

I initially classified article types into broad geographic areas, and each chapter into roughly a decade each. It was not possible to delineate the time barriers accurately, because all of the newsletters were filed in folders of varying sizes,

of, say approximately five years of newsletters per folder. The newsletters were sourced from a variety of club members, and no collection was complete. Gaps remain.

Some interesting technical points to note. Of course, we have seen the quality of the newsletter improve, and the quantity increase, over the past few years. It once was a rather tatty, typed document. Now, photographs and quality articles are the norm, and the Newsletter is often 12 pages or more! Quality of writing has always been usually pretty good, and I noted with great interest the "fictional" stories from the 70's. If you are lucky, you might even see some reprinted here one day. Articles on the Ruahines and Mt Ruapehu, feature, especially during the 1990's. But the mighty Tararuas were obviously proportionally more popular during the 1970's. There were certainly a large number of South Island trips during the 1970's, covering virtually all areas. Other spots in the North Island usually featured once every year or two. And there are many local trips that continually appear on the list, for obvious reasons. I, for one, never get tired of the same trips.

	no. of issues	Total # of articles	Avg articles per month	SAR/SAR-EX	Reference/Reviews, Obituaries, letters	Local Trips	Ruahines	Tararuas	Kaimanawa/Kaweka/Urewera/etc	Ruapehu/Taranaki	Sth Is.	Over-seas, etc.
Apr 68-Aug 72	52	170	3.2	9	33	11	45	47	5	16	4	-
Dec 72-Feb 79	75	264	3.5	12	48	10	61	80	15	23	15	2
Mar 79-Apr 88	109	325	2.9	13	46	19	80	50	18	46	53	6
May 88-Dec 97	120	540	4.5	13	125	38	143	76	20	90	35	13
Jan 98-Apr 00	28	161	5.7	9	31	15	32	28	4	29	13	1

TRIP REPORTS

THE BEAUTIFUL HUXLEY VALLEY by Tony Gates

April 2000 brought fine, settled weather to the McKenzie Basin. Three of us tramped for a couple of days in the Temple Catchment, near

Lake Ohau, then I spent a week solo in the beautiful Huxley Valley. No summits, just pleasant, relatively easy tramping, traditional DOC huts, and plenty of chance to rest and read. The whole area is certainly quite beautiful, with a delightful mix of grassy flats, forested valleys, tussock basins, as well as mountains and glaciers. There are several easy passes for trans-alpine trips. Road access to the Hopkins Valley has recently been washed out, so it takes three hours more of hard slog to reach the old car park. That's why the next valley east (down valley), the Temple, has become more popular, and why those in the know use either horses, jet boats, or 4WD's to go up the main Hopkins & Huxley valleys.

The South Temple hut (DOC), located on a pleasant clearing in open beech forest, was our first stop. We enjoyed the South Temple Valley for three days, searching for the elusive Chamois and Thar, and chewing through some of our vast food supplies. I guided my friends up to Gunsight Pass, where I had crossed in a storm in 1984, then they descended to the North Temple, and out. This is a fine trans-alpine trip. I returned solo to the South Temple, and to drizzle and murk that was to last the week. Curses. I had plans, but they would have to wait for good weather. I found it reasonably easy to grunt over to the Huxley Valley in the murk, chasing a few chamois en route. I was more that a little intimidated by the hulking giant of Mt Huxley up close, but noted the recommended route for later (Derek, Peter, Bruce, are you interested?). I also noted the utterly gorgeous scenery, despite mist and drizzle. Vast, vast tussock basins, alpine crags, brooding rocky slopes, and a delightfully easy river bed to tramp along. My home for the next four days was the South Huxley Biv, a beautifully situated DOC bivvy of limited size, with an historic log book. Ed Hillary, Lance Broad and Kevin Pearce's names featured from the early 70's, and mine from 1984! The weather never cleared! My sleeping bag was well used, and my patience tested, as I passed the time with two good books, more than a few brews, and the occasional foray up and down the river flats looking for Chamois. Mist and drizzle greeted a rather depressed me on my last full day in the hills. But but but, hey, a watery sunshine eventually showed up late morning, so I finally got my just reward for patience, with a pleasant 6 hour stroll up onto some tussock basins. Mt Huxley was still in clag, but Broderick Pass, and

parts of the mighty Landsborough Valley, as well north towards Mt Cook, were clear. Bloody fantastic views. It was almost sad to descend to Huxley Forks Hut, with its a roasting fire box and residents to yarn with. The last day, and I was off down valley soon after dawn, destination Monument Hut. A good walk on pleasant river flats, with the promise of sunshine later. I set a good pace down valley, pausing only briefly to chat to the tourists. They were toiling up valley in increasing numbers (it was Easter). Hitching down valley presented no problems, with a sturdy 4WD that had driven up valley to past Elcho Stream! By 1.00 PM, I was drinking beer and sunbathing at Lake Ohau Lodge, with all my washed clothes hung out to dry, and all my stuff drying out.

NB, I noted with great sadness the death of two young chaps on the slopes of Mt Strachan (Broderick Pass) during Easter. It seemed incredibly bad luck to be caught in an avalanche up there, with little snow about.

MANIA – KELLY KNIGHT

6-7 May by Martin Lawrence

After an unpromising weather forecast it was great to leave PN at 7 am and watch the sun rise in a clear sky as we drove up the Pohangina Valley. We collected Pete McGregor and continued on our scenic route, arriving at the Mania track start just prior to 9 am.

We bounced over the Mick/Llew stylish stile, had an easy warm-up on a farm track before hitting the bush.

Views on the way up were very good and we could easily spot Rangi hut on the next ridge south. As we reached the tussock, cloud was starting to move over the tops, though not enough to spoil our visibility. We finally stopped climbing in time for lunch on a peak on the Whanahuia Range. Some cloud was still flicking over the ranges but not enough to stop us from testing Terry's peak spotting and naming.

After lunch our route was to follow the Whanahuia Range North then North West until we reached the spur leading down to Kelly Knight Hut. The Pourangaki River seemed a very long way beneath our feet and did prove to be as we slogged out the last leg.

The three of us, Terry, Peter and myself met up with Mick, Llew, Marion and Jenny who had arrived at Kelly Knight by a somewhat easier route from Bayfield Station. Mick and Llew made unsuccessful trips after deer that evening.

Still no rain the next morning as we left, some of us on a dry track, some of us on the wet route. The river was reasonably shallow so the down stream route was quite pleasant. We had detailed instructions from Mick and Llew involving bent trees and stepping holes in the cliff face which did work as we clambered out of the river to farm land, an early lunch and a pleasant drive back.

COPPERMINE CIRCUIT

7th May by Monica Cantwell

The main party left Foodtown at 8-30am, & stopping to pick me up from Napier Road. Sarah & David arrived at the carpark just behind us.

The weather held out for us & we enjoyed very pleasant tramping conditions. We first visited the old coppermine site some half-hour in and then went back and around the loop track coming out onto farmland before descending to the carpark.

Warren, being very helpful in showing the new people just where we all were plus the high points, proceeded to bring out his map & point out these features except his map was the Tararuas (which he thought he was in, we said) !!!

Joking aside, this is a wonderful tramp for new people – lovely bush & approximately 4 hours duration. A lot of the track had drops of blood & we all came to the conclusion it was none of us nor the dog.. We think it may have been a possum trapper, as we saw lots hanging on a tree at the Billygoat turnoff. We started out just after nine & was out sometime after 1pm.

A lovely day thanks to Sarah & David. We were Monica Cantwell, Anne Spring, Sue Schumacher, Jenny Le Quesne, Warren Wheeler, Duncan Hedderley, David Simcock + our leader Sarah Todd and black lab Zeb.

Footnote: All was not lost in the map department. Sarah produced a Ruahine map so Warren could check where the division was in rivers running towards the Hawkes Bay & the Manawatu.

HAURANGI RANGE

13-14 May

Janet Wilson (with some help from the Haurangi Bush Track Guide)

After rendezvousing in Pahiatua on Friday evening for takeaways, we headed south through Martinborough towards the Wairarapa coastal settlement of Ngawihi. About 20km before Ngawihi you reach Te Kopi and the Putangirua Pinnacles. Using the car headlights we put up the tents at the DoC camping area. It was a calm, drizzly evening. Steve and Graham drove down to the Mangatoetoe Stream near Cape Palliser and left a car there for us to use on Sunday.

Next morning we headed off about 8:15 and wandered up the stream for a quick look at the Pinnacles –this is an impressive and fascinating area – well worth a visit. We then climbed a short steep climb to the viewing platform. A few more photos and we were off, heading towards Washpool Hut for lunch. The track climbs steadily, initially following an old road and then becoming a rather overgrown track, to a saddle at 700m. The drizzle had continued and so we had no views and by this stage were rather wet from the vegetation. Perhaps some of us should have put on raicoats a little earlier.

The track drops quickly 500m to the hut where we supplemented our rather late lunch with some soup from packets found in the hut. Continuing on we headed up a “lively spur” to another saddle at 700m. Here, and at the previous saddle, the birdlife was amazing – by far the most abundant I have come across in the bush – numerous tuis, wood pigeons crashing through the trees and just missing us, a kaka, many smaller birds and even a morepork sitting watching us. We then dropped down to an incredibly clean and tidy Pararaki Hut, arriving about 4-30pm.

Next morning we crossed the Pararaki Stream and climbed again to a “subtle saddle with a smidgin of a view” – except that we had no view as it was still drizzling. From here you sidle for a time before heading down an interesting open spur covered most impressively by “Easter orchids” – a few were still in flower but you needed to be there a month earlier to see and smell them at their best.

We stopped at Kawakawa Hut for a photo and snack before heading up the Kawakawa Stream. After frequent crossings you leave the stream up a “brute of a spur” and climb to a saddle from where the track wanders on down to the

Mangatoetoe Stream. We had lunch after the bush opened out to clearings on the river flat shortly before Mangatoetoe Hut. From here it was a rather rapid, leg hammering slog along a four wheel drive track and river route to the sea and our awaiting car. About 6½ hours on Sunday. Had a quick look at the smelly seals and the Cape Palliser Lighthouse – Steve ran up the (250?) steps and I followed a little more slowly and then we headed home.

We were Graham Peters (leader), Jean Gorman, Jenny McCarthy, Steve Glasgow and Janet Wilson.

TROUT, TROTTERS AND TRUFFLES

By Tony Gates and Dave Henwood.

Dave Henwood was the leader, a dedicated mountain man who knows the Tararuas better than most. He dragged along Lance Gray, and Tony Gates, a couple of like minded people keen for some exercise and views.

Friday evening saw us partaking in the generations old Tararua tradition of tramping by torchlight. A really good way to get a head start for Saturday's tramp. I said that we needed the exercise anyway. 2.5 hours to our fly camp at Plateau Stream. Chilly.

Saturday dawned cool and clear. Valley mist soon formed, as we rapidly descended to Waitewaewae Hut, more passionately known simply as YTTY. Bit chilly crossing the river, but much quicker than following the track. Gotta hava brew (and some brekkie). Then we enthusiastically set off up the very big hill for the tussock tops, noting three large trout in the river just in front of the hut. They say that the Otaki is a good river for fishing. The next excitement was provided by some rustling ferns, a few grunts, and two sturdy black Trotters scurrying away. They are not all that common in the Tararuas these days. And no one had a rifle! Then we noted numerous fungi bursting out of the forest floor, and sprouting out of rotten logs. Some were deep purple, and some dainty yellows and oranges. We figured that they must be truffles, thereby explaining the presence of the pigs (pigs are used in France to sniff out Truffles for harvest). Well, it sounds good anyway!

It is a hell of a long haul uphill to the tussock tops of Mt Crawford. But it is well worth it. Soon, we

were cruising over Shoulder Knob, then Junction Knob, then the dominant Mt Crawford itself. Our destination was Nicholls Hut, set on a sheltered ledge in the tussock, to the north of Crawford.



Tony at Junction Knob

Firstly, Tony nicked down to Andersons Hut for a nose, and Dave and Lance relaxed the pace so as to enjoy the views more.

From Crawford, between 3pm and 4pm, we could hear helicopters buzzing about Nicholls hut. The Westpac Rescue Helicopter had been called in to winch an injured hunter from the bush just north of Nicholls Peak (a joker shot his father in the knee!) and we had a ring side seat of the action.



Dave and Lance did their good samaritan act at the hut making cups of tea for the chopper pilot while the medic was down in the bush doing his stuff. Some assistance (and quiet encouragement) was also provided to the surviving hunters who had to pack up rapidly and catch an unscheduled chopper ride to Masterton for a chat with the local constabulary concerning the shooting.

Then all was quiet. There was dramatic looking mist spilling into the Waiohine from Maungahuka. That evening in Nicholls Hut, more than one pot belly was fired up - one with coal, another with wine, steak, spuds, toast, chokkie bikkies, peanut slabs and Uncle Toby's fruit bars (the departing hunters left us a few goodies). Slept well.

Up before 6. Coal was still glowing in the firebox – sheer luxury. A slither of moon lit the tussock basin outside even as the faint glow slowly lightened up the sky to the east. After a good brew, I packed, said my farewells to Dave and Lance (who were to pick me up at the Ohau roadend), then nicked out onto Nicholls Peak. It felt fantastic to be tramping in perfect conditions with a nano pack. Ruapehu was clear, with a dramatic red sky around it, while the upper Waiohine and Otaki Valleys brooded in black shadow.

Dave and Lance cruised back over Mt Crawford, definitely not wanting to depart the tussock tops on such a day. Then a rapid tramp back to the car.

The main range winds north over numerous small knobs, in and out of the bush. The track is well marked- at least for tramping on a clear day, but a person would need to be careful tramping there in the mist. I was moving rapidly, and was glad to be wearing leggings and a fleece jacket for

protection from frosty tussock grasses. Cold in the shade, warm- ish in the sun. It didn't take long for the familiar Mt Crawford to fade into the distance, and the vistas to change. I had a wonderful perspective of the Tararuas, and could admire the vast, forested Otaki-Waitewaiwai catchment to my left, and the huge tussock and leatherwood covered hills of Carkeek Ridge to my right. I zoomed past the new Dracophyllym Bivvy, noting a land snail shell on the forest floor (we see many of these in the Ruahines, but they are not as common in the Tararuas), then the glacially shaped Park Valley. Pukematawai peak was my planned lunch spot, and was half way home. I longed to continue to tramp EVERYWHERE in the Tararuas, it was such a gorgeous day. But I had a rendezvous, so turned westward and downward towards Te Matawai Hut, and the well shaded Ohau Valley. T'was pretty hot in the sheltered, sunny bits, then in the valley, often with knee deep river crossings, it was like walking into a freezer. However, perseverance paid off, and I reached the road end a few minutes before the others. 5 hours Nicholls Hut- Pukematawai, 5 hours Pukematawai- road end!

SEARCH AND RESCUE ACTIVITES Terry

Club SAR personal were involved in a search for two persons overdue in the Mania Track - Pari Stream area on Monday 22nd May. The two had gone out just for the Sunday morning and had not returned by Sunday night. I got a call to get a team organized and to take part if the missing party didn't turn up by late Monday morning. Mick, Warren, Janet, Graham, Llew and myself (all of whom had been on the recent SAREX exercise - hint to go on SAREX's!) geared ourselves up for some activity on the Monday.

By late Monday morning no word of the missing party so one of us along with a police team headed off by chopper for the area, while the other five went to work with gear ready (Teams from MTSC and Levin were also on standby). After discussions with the family a preliminary search began - by chopper up the Pari and around the scrub and tussock headwaters and a ground team heading up the Pari from the farm land. The missing party was found by the ground team. They were OK. They had got disorientated on the tops with no map and compass and came down a wrong spur, ran out of daylight and had a restless

night with just what they were wearing, no food or shelter etc.

The chopper had actually flown over the lost party in its sweeps but hadn't spotted them. Reason: the missing pair were wearing grey, dark clothing - and from directly overhead they must have blended into the grey rocks and dark shadows of

the stream boulders - even though they were waving their arms at the chopper to get attention. Lesson from this: some bright material (orange or yellow pack liner, bright clothing etc). Also map and compass, some food, something for shelter, for any trip above or below the bush line.



Mt Crawford from the north [*Photo: Tony Gates*]

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