

PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - July 2002

They made an oddly assorted pair. Hillary was tall, lanky, big boned and long faced, and he moved with an incongruous grace, rather like a giraffe. He habitually wore on his head at home made cap with a cotton flap behind, as seen in old movies of the French Foreign Legion. Tenzing was, by comparison, a Himalayan fashion model: small, neat, delicate, brown as a berry, with the confident movements of a cat. Hillary grinned, Tenzing smiled. Hillary guffawed, Tenzing chuckled. Neither of them seemed particularly perturbed by anything; on the other hand, neither went in for unnecessary bravado. Hillary and Tenzing were two cheerful courageous fellows doing what they liked doing, and did best.

Jan Morris, Time Correspondent, 1953. From "Tenzing and the Sherpas of Everest" Tenzing (2001).

NEWS- results from the 2002 photograph competition

**REPORTS: Tunupo Peak, Heritage Lodge, Keritaki Hut
Kime Hut
Cycle touring in Europe, 1983**

CLUB NIGHTS

July 11	Patagonia- Atacama Desert	Harley Betts
July 25	Alpine Ruahine	Tony Gates
August 1	Committee Meeting	Tony's house.
August 8	The Southern Ocean	Peter Wiles
August 29	Mt Aspiring	Bruce Van Brunt
Coming up	Interclub Quizz	MUAC.

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

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially the weather. A reasonably proficient trumper can be expected to do the trips in 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.

July 11 Club night
Harley Betts. A trip to Patagonia and northern Chile, March-April 2002".
Harley will show images from a recent tramping trip to South America. Places visited include Chile's Torres del Paine circuit and Argentina's Parque Nacional los Glaciares, followed by a week of thawing out in the moonscapes of the Atacama Desert in far northern Chile.

July 13- 14 Mitre, Tararuas M
 Graham Peters 329 4722

A Leisurely day in the Waingawa Valley, behind Masterton, on Saturday to establish base camp at Mitre Flats. then an alpine-ish start Sunday to "knock the bastard off"- Mitre Peak I mean.

July 13- 14 Blyth Hut, TNP E/ M
 Mary Crow 06 322 8665

Depart 8.00 AM, to spend some time exploring this lovely area on the slopes of Mt Ruapehu. Good tracks, huts, forest, and tussock clearings.

July 20- 21 Cattle Ridge Hut M
 Lance Gray 356 6454

Depart 8.00 AM for this good hut overlooking the Ruamahanga valley. It's about 3 hours tramp to Roaring Stag Lodge, then a steep climb up the hill. There is a good fire box in this hut.

July 21 Herepai Hut E
 Peter Darragh 358 8774

Depart 7.30 AM for the Mangatainoka road end, it's not far to Herepai Hut- a nice spot. The fitter ones may ascend the track, possibly into snow.

July 25 Thursday Trampers
 Stewart Malcolm 358 3409

July 25. Club night
Tony Gates. Alpine Ruahine- a slide show of some of awesome and beautiful spots like Sawtooth Ridge and Te Hekenga. Winter tramps with snow, ice, and scenery.

Jul 27- 28 Central Tararuas F
 Derek Sharp 326 8178

This fairly strenuous tramp will get a really early start from the Kiriwhakapapa road end, and head over Blue Range and Bannister Ridge to Arete Biv. Hopefully, Derek will lead you around the tops to Brocket, down to Cow Creek, and back over Blue Range. Phew. Take a good torch.

Jul 28 Maharahara Crossing M
 Mick Leyland 358 3183

A classic local tramp, crossing the Ruahine Range on a relatively good, tho muddy, track. The crossover may require two parties, swapping car keys in the middle. Another leader is to be arranged, as Mick is unfortunately not available.

Aug 1 Committee Meeting
 Tony Gates 357 7439

Aug 3- 4 Snowcraft 1 M/ F/ I
 Warren Wheeler 3561998

As previous years indicate, this is a classic trip, and always popular. Refer notices.

Aug 4 Field Hut. M
 Neil Campbell 359 5048

An historic local hut near the bushline, about three hours in from Otaki Forks. Return the same way.

Aug 8. Club Night
Peter Wiles. The Southern Ocean, and Ross Sea, Including visits to Campbell Island travel through the pack ice, Cape Adare, Cape Hallet, Terra Nova Bay, Ross Island, McMurdo Sound, Franklin Island and the Auckland Islands. The trip visited three historic huts on the continent. I will be discussing some of the related history.

Aug 10- 11 Blue Lake, TNP. M/ T
 Harley Betts 353

8658
 On this alpine tramp and camp in from Mangetepopo, you will require some warm stuff, and ice axe and crampons. Good training for Snowcraft, and great scenery.

Aug 11 Kauterawa Valley E
 Kevin Pearce 357 0217

Depart 9.00 AM Sunday. A pleasant river valley close to town with an opportunity to climb to the hill tops. The track is a bit rough in places, so be sure to bring stout footwear and winter clothing. Swimming is optional.

Aug 14 (Wed) Snowcraft evening (for participants)

Aug 17/ 18 Snowcraft 2 F/ T/ I.

Warren Wheeler

356 1998

Refer notices.

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 Andrew Lynch (325-8779).

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 Janet Wilson (329 4722)

NOTICES

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES can be Emailed to tony.gates@horizons.govt.nz, or stuff can be delivered to him at home or work.

c/- horizons.mw

11-15 Victoria Ave, PN

If you're e-mailing, please include your article as an attachment (Microsoft Word Version 7.0 or Rich Text Format), unless it is a small article, which can be typed directly into the e-mail.

You may get an e-mail reply from the horizons 'postmaster'. Don't worry, all material gets through once it is checked for viruses etc. by horizons' staff.

The deadline for anything for the Newsletter is the **FIRST THURSDAY** of the month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Please note that subscriptions for 2002/ 2003. This will be your last Newsletter without payment. \$30.00 Adult membership.

\$35.00 Family.

\$15.00 Junior.

NEW MEMBERS.

Welcome, and happy tramping, to Ian Harding Napier Road, RD 2, Woodville. Ph 06 376 5707.

RESULTS OF THE 2002 PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION.

Murray Woodcock, from Extraeye and Bells, judged for us this year, and chose all rankings himself (as opposed to members judging by votes. Few, if any of us, would have disagreed with his skilled opinion and beneficial comments.

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Do you need to know what the local river level is or how much rain fell overnight?

Click to find out:

- River height information updated regularly:
 - flow
 - level
 - rainfall

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Slides- NZ natural history.

1. Feather. Guy Vickers. (overall winner)
2. Whio. Guy Vickers.
3. Fantail. Pete McGregor.
4. Cabbage Trees. Guy Vickers.

NZ topical.

1. Ngaurahoe. Harley Betts.
2. Climbers hand. Pete McGregor.
3. River crossing. Tony Gates.

NZ scenic.

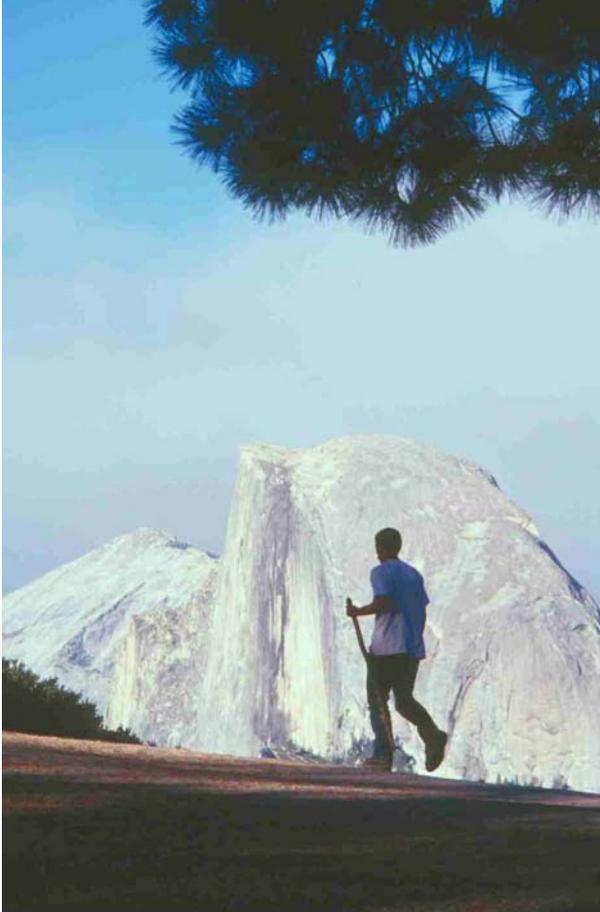
1. Kayak. Guy Vickers.
2. Sandllines. Guy Vickers.
3. Waterfall. Harley Betts.
4. Pohangina Valley. Pete McGregor.

NZ alpine.

1. Mountain cloud. Harley Betts.
2. Syme Hut. Harley Betts.
3. Ruahine Tops. Guy Vickers.
4. Climbers on Taranaki. Pete McGregor.

Overseas scenic/ alpine.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Waterfall and rainbow. | Guy Vickers. |
| 2. Atacama Desert. | Harley Betts. |
| 3. Icebergs. | Harley Betts. |
| 4. Half Dome | Guy Vickers. |



Hiker at Half Dome, Yosemite. By Guy Vickers.

Overseas topical.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Chilean vege shop | Harley Betts. |
| 2. Spanish dog sleigh. | Tony Gates. |
| 3. Red parka people. | Harley Betts. |

Prints**NZ natural history.**

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1 Trees. | Harley Betts. |
| 2. Fungi. | Harley Betts. |
| 3. Icicles. | Warren Wheeler |

NZ topical.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. River crossing. | Warren Wheeler. |
| 2. Americans on Aspiring. | Troy Baidson. |
| 3. A serious bang on the head. | Warren Wheeler. |

NZ scenic.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Sunset. | Harley Betts. |
| 2. Sunlight through trees. | Warren Wheeler. |
| 3. Lake & dog. | Jonathon Astin |

NZ alpine

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Mountain panorama. | Troy Baidson. |
| 2. Taranaki. | Harley Betts. |
| 3. Star trails. | Harley Betts. |

Overseas scenic/ alpine.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Mountain. | Kristina Mattson. |
| 2. Bridge to nowhere. | Kristina Mattson. |
| 3. Vast plane. | Kristina Mattson. |

Overseas topical.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Warren skiing. | Kristina Mattson. |
|-------------------|-------------------|

SNOWCRAFT INSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

2002. By Terry Crippen



This very worthwhile programme is designed to equip club members and others with basic to intermediate skills so they can safely get out and about in snow on

winter trips, and alpine trips down south over summer: from straight forward walking on snow slopes to snow climbing and aspects of technical mountaineering. A progressive approach is used: Snowcraft 1 assumes nil or only minor previous snow experience, while Snowcraft 2 and 3 build on the previous level.

Most people enter at Snowcraft 1 level. However depending on their aims, some people find just Snowcraft 1, or Snowcraft 1 and 2, sufficient. Some people with previous suitable experience enter at Snowcraft 2 level. Numbers are limited.

The instruction consists of three weekends away (Friday night depart) a fortnight apart, two at Mt Ruapehu and one at Mt Egmont, and three week night evenings (one prior to each weekend).

Applications close Thursday July 25.

Fee and dates as follows:

Snowcraft 1: \$120 (\$125*)
evening Tues 30 July, weekend 3-4 August

Snowcraft 2: \$130 (\$135*)
evening Wed 14 August, weekend 17-18 August

Snowcraft 3: \$115 (\$120*)
evening Wed 28 August, weekend 31 Aug - 1 September)

One off discounted payment of \$350 (\$365*)
(*non PNTMC member rate)

For further info and registration form contact:
Warren Wheeler 356-1998, or Terry Crippen
3563-588, or Bruce van Brunt 328-4761.

FROM DOC, WAIRAPARA.

Please be aware, and pass on as necessary, that recent heavy rains have led to damage and closure of two cable visitor structures in the eastern Tararua Ranges.

The Swingbridge over the Tauherenikau River just south of Tutuwai Hut (NZMS S26 043 183) has one tower undermined by the river, and is now closed as it does not provide safe passage for trampers. The river must be forded instead, which should be approached with extreme

THREE BOOK REVIEWS. By Tony Gates

Tenzing and the Sherpas of Everest. Judy & Nashi Tenzing (2001). With forewords by The Dali Lama and Sir Edmund Hillary. Harper Collins (Australia). Soft back, about \$45.00.

I haven't finished reading this book yet (and it looks like it won't be finished for some time), but it fits in well with many other books about the Himalayas and Mt Everest (and it offers the front page quote too- you should recognise it). Also, I wanted to make a start on it while on the subject of book reviews.

This is another excellent book. There are three sections of quality photographs, including some 1920's ones, and some modern day colour ones. But the book is mainly well written text, presented with sensitivity as autobiographical chapters of various key players. And of them there were many before Everest was conquered. They proved themselves, and were so named "Tigers of the Snows". When that historic choice of climbers was made during May 1953, Tenzing Norgay Sherpa climbed into history with a now extremely well known New Zealander. We all know the story, and that one climb, and its aftermath, forms the middle half of this book- seemingly an obsession with the media and general public being the first to climb the highest, with all other mountains or climbs ignored. But the author, being a grandson of Tenzing Norgay, continually stresses how humble the sherpas were, and, like Ed Hillary and most other mountaineers, shared a true love of the mountains.

The exploits of other Sherpa's are written about, including Jamling Tenzing (Nashi's uncle, and Tenzing's son), who reached the summit immediately after New Zealanders Rob Hall and Andy Harris (and others) lost their lives there. His book was reviewed here a year or so ago.

Both Jamling and Nashi tried to copy and photograph Tenzing's historic pose from the summit on 29 May 1953. Somehow, they didn't

caution. Access to Tutuwai Hut from Kaitoke Roadend should not be undertaken by inexperienced trampers.

The Cableway at Cow Creek (NZMS S25 203 447) has sustained damage from a fallen tree and is no longer useable. Again, approach any river crossing with extreme caution.

The Wairarapa Area Office (06 3770 700) will supply any further information on these structures, and in the short term they are closed.

get it quite correct, raising the wrong foot, or holding the ice axe in the wrong hand. Then when your eyes return to that original photograph, which, as the author wrote, stopped the world, you can see the natural, confident pose that the cover page quote refers to.

WHICH NEW ZEALAND BIRD? By Andrew Crowe (2001). Illustrated by Dave Gunson. Penguin. Soft cover, 100 pages, full colour, \$34.96.

Andrew Crowe has written several books about native plant and animal identification. His latest, reviewed here, is perhaps his best, following his pattern of user friendly and informative illustrated guide books on natural history. The illustrator's work has frequently appeared in such publications as *New Zealand Geographic*, and on postage stamps. Understandably, this book was short listed for the 2002 Montana Book Awards.

I believe that this book is based on British ones. It is not comprehensive for species, rather for how to find the common and interesting ones. 96 species are covered, most of which are native, listed in colour coded chapters under their homeland (including sanctuary birds). There is half or one page per species. A comprehensive paragraph about each bird, its habitat, migration, rareness, etc wraps around lovely colour illustrations of birds of various ages and sexes. Many quick reference details are provided, including a map, commonness, native or introduced, size, song, and flight type. Following the authors advice on bird identification, you should be able to find out what you are looking at/ listening to. As a not too skilled bird watcher, I particularly liked the scenery drawings, with little pictures of where you are likely to find birds, ie flying over open pasture, common on the ground, at night, etc. You can search by weight (in grams), from the Rifleman (6.5 grams) to the Albatross (9000 grams), by colour, by body feature (usually bill, neck, tail, or leg length), or by lovely, life size egg photographs (the only photographs in the book). An extensive index, a

list of maori names (including tribal variations) and other useful information such as Websites conclude this very useful book.

SEVENTY FIVE YEARS IN THE HILLS. A history of the Levin Waiopahu Tramping Club Inc. 1927- 2002. By Ross Kerr (2002). Published by Ross Kerr. Soft cover, 52 pages, only b/ w photos, \$10.00).

The author has kept good tabs on Tararua tramping history, having already published a full chronology of happenings in the ranges. This book is in a similar format, with easy to read details. There are chapter headings, with each chapter about one page long. Club and Tararua

TRIP REPORTS

TUNUPO, June 9 2002. By Elaine Herve.

We met at Foodtown. During the drive, we discovered that Richard had arrived back from a South Island trip at 3.00 AM that morning- such dedication. The weather was threatening, with a forecast for worse. At the Table Flat road end, we met up with a group led by Liz Morrison, who were planning a shorter trip.

The three of us set off in wind blown rain, but found that the bush provided good shelter. We all soon started peeling off layers of clothing. We made steady progress to the bush line, up the gradually ascending ridge line. It was decided to turn back at the bush line because of the high wind. Following a brief lunch stop in a sheltered hollow, we made our way down to the Heritage hut to meet up with the others who had ventured down to the river. The worsening weather never appeared, in fact it had improved. The drive back to Palmerston North was done leisurely, and included an ice cream stop at Cheltenham.

We were; Richard Lockett (Leader), Martin Lawrence, and Elaine Herve.

OROUA VALLEY DAY TRIP, June 9. By Liz Morrison.

The weather forecast was not encouraging, however we were lucky that Jim was wrong. At Table Flat car park, we caught up with Richard, who had passed us on the way in. Cold wind and drizzle was soon left behind, as we dropped down over the farmland. At the Japanese style bridge, we shed a few layers, admire the creek way below, and wandered up to Heritage Lodge. There we stopped for a break and a snack, mostly outside, as the resident couple had managed to fill the hut with smoke from a sullen fire. The rain had held off, so it seemed a good time to trot down to the river. But no one seemed to

history is logically and briefly followed, from the clubs' inception, through the depression and war years, with associated stuff like the possibility of making a National Park in the Tararuas and the LWTC hut on Mt Ruapehu. There are search dramas, hut and track maintenance, and then in 1977, a club 50th celebration. Club officers are listed, a good selection of photographs, and some hints at the diversity of activities that trampers enjoy. The final chapter lists the not insignificant achievements thus far of 2002; The new Burn and Waiopahu huts, the Tararua Peaks ladder, and the addition to the Tararua Park of 1000 hectares near Waiopahu hut.

appreciate my short cut through the bushes and down a tiny stream. Maybe because I had gumboots and they didn't.

Back at the hut, now smoke free, we had a hot brew, extended lunch, solved problems, and set the world right. We were later joined by Richard, Elaine, and Martin (from the Tunupo Track).

Enjoying a social, laid back day in the hills were; Fiona Donald, Ian Harding, Barbara Jones, Gabrielle, Liz Morrison.

KIME HUT MT HECTOR, 25- 26 May. By Pauline Knuckley

The weather leading up to the weekend had been bitterly cold and the forecast wasn't good, so I did wonder whether I shouldn't have pulled out of the tramp and spent the weekend in front of the fire. However, 8am Saturday morning saw me at Foodtown, where I met up with Tim and Warren and we headed off to Otaki Forks. By 9:45 we'd got ourselves organised and were crossing the footbridge heading up along Fields Track.

We wandered up the hill, stopping to talk with a couple of guys who had stayed overnight at Kime Hut. They hadn't made it to Mt. Hector because of the icy conditions and their comments about how cold the hut was reinforced all the warnings I'd had to take lots of warm clothing. We continued up to Field Hut, arriving in time for lunch.

Above Field Hut, on route to Kime Hut, we had excellent views of Wellington Harbour and the snow capped Kaikoura range in the distance. However, the further we climbed the worse the weather got so before too long we didn't have views of anything. The wind was strong and icy and there were interesting icicles hanging from

the vegetation. At about 3pm it was rather a relief to see the hut appear out of the swirling mist and to get into some shelter.

We then had the rest of the afternoon and the evening to fill in. We boiled the billy and amused ourselves by using Warren's thermometer to see how cold the hut got (2 degrees) and who had the warmest body temperature. Warren cooked tea and we followed that by having a few games of cards. Tim won the euchre and when we got sick of that we moved on to Snap, which 'lightening reflexes' Warren won.

Tim was still keen to do the 'romantic star lit night trip' to Mt Hector although there was no way I was venturing out into the foul weather. Party leader Warren made the sensible decision that we weren't going anywhere.

The weather hadn't cleared on the tops by next morning but by the time we'd packed up and got part way back down the track we were back to the panoramic views we'd seen on the way up. The trip back down was uneventful except for Tim and Warren arguing about the accuracy and expertise of weather forecasters, among other things.

All in all an interesting and enjoyable trip. Thanks to Warren for his culinary skills and to Tim for being the driver.

We were Tim Odering, Warren Wheeler and Pauline Knuckey.

Keretaki Trip Sunday June 30, By Dave Grant.

Almost didn't happen, but Jenny rang up Friday night keen to go. Sunday morning the clouds still hung low along the hills at daybreak and the ground was sodden from overnight rain. No panic call saying "should we stay home", so off I headed to meet with Jenny at Woodville Caltex. Imagine our surprise when up drives Tony. God, I thought, he's left his decision to come tramping till the last minute. But no, Tony was on a work call out, and by chance our paths had crossed.

Jenny and I carried on to the Kumeti road end and were heading up the wide braided gravel bed of the Mangapuaka stream by 8.30am. By the time we had turned south out of the stream valley the weather had brightened and we warmed to the challenge of the steep climb up through the scattered miro. Along the ridge top towards Maharahara, we looked back to expansive views out to the farmlands of Hawkes Bay and northern Wairarapa. In the distance to the north, Te Mata peak, and to the east, Oporae at the end of the Puketoi range. As we climbed gradually up towards the leatherwood scrub we puzzled over

the origins of the many tree skeletons poking up through the vegetation around us. What species of tree had they been, how long had they been dead and what had caused them to die? [possum damage to Kawaka (*Libocedrus plumose*) and Pahautea (*L. bidwillii*).

By 10.30 we had reached the turn off to Keretaki hut and were heading down the long hill with the little blue hut visible in the distance on the other side of the valley. "One hour" the sign said at the track junction. Great, we will be at the hut for an early lunch. Don't you believe it, It took us over an hour to get down to the Oruakeretaki stream, and by the time we had made our way down stream and then up the steep grunt to the hut, two hours had gone by. Not to worry. We took two chairs outside and sat in the sunshine enjoying our lunch. We were on the track back by just after one, spurred on by increasing cloud cover and the thought that four hours out would take us fairly close to nightfall. A short stop back at the Maharahara track junction with views up the western side of the Ruahines. Yes, those must be the snow streaked lower slopes of Ruapehu seen faintly in the distance under a heavy cloud cover, and there, Mangahuia and Te Hekenga under similar cloud cover to the north. Back down through the leatherwood and into the low bush cover. A heavy "whoosh, whoosh, whoosh", and we were rewarded with the sight of a couple of kereru flying past to land in a dead tree nearby. Big birds balancing on the very ends of skeletal branches.

We emerged back down at the Mangapuaka stream a bit earlier than we thought, and made our way, kicking through the water to get rid of mud off boots and legs, back to the van. Another great day in the hills.

We were Dave Grant and Jenny McCarthy.



Jo OHalloran, Terry Crippen, (yes, really), and the late Trevor Bissell at Beasn, France, 1983. Photo by Sallie Hewson.

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Vice President	: Terry Crippen	356-3588
Secretary	: Dave Grant	357 8269
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