



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER
March/April 1983

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Further notice is hereby given that the A.G.M. of the P.N.T.M.C. will be held on Thursday 24 March, 1983, commencing at 7.45 p.m. in the Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

Nominations for the positions of Patron, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Auditor and not less than five committee members are required and nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary before the commencement of the meeting. Nomination forms are provided at the end of this newsletter.

AGENDA

- Apologies
- Confirmation of the minutes of the last A.G.M. and matters arising
- President's report
- Treasurer's report
- Election of officers
- General business

Supper duties: Kathy and Vaughan Crow, Peter Darragh.

ALL TRIPS LEAVE SUPERSAVE CARPARK, FERGUSSON STREET. IF YOU WISH TO GO ON A TRIP, YOU MUST ADVISE THE LEADER AT LEAST THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE.

DAY TRIPS AND ALTERNATIVES

If you are interested in an alternative day or weekend trip, contact the person running the scheduled trip.

26 - 27 March - Totara Flats - Tararuas

One of the most beautiful spots in our local forest park, just far enough away from the road end to keep the population density low.

Names to:	Daryl Rowan	70214
Grading:	Medium (plus or minus a few grades)	
Cost:	Approx \$7	
Departs:	Friday 6.30 p.m.	

1 – 4 April – Easter

Still plenty of potential for trips, e.g.

1. Richmond Range
2. East Cape
3. Longish trip in the Ruahines/Tararuas

Contact Catherine Farquhar, 63588

(There is some interest in 'local' 3 day trips.)

9 –10 April – Ruahine Crossing(s)

The exact route has yet to be determined, so get in quick with your ideas. Plenty of scope for day trips.

Names to: Perry Hicks 39042
Grading: Medium and fit (and day trips)
Cost: Approx \$6
Departs: Friday 6.30 p.m.

14 April – Informal Club Night

Details to be arranged. Come along and get to know some of our new club members anyway.

16 – 17 April – Tararua Main Range: Dundas Ridge

Here is the chance to get up to the classic tops of the Tararuas.

Leader: Mike Freeman 71785
Grading: Fit (and a variety of other trips if required)
Cost: Approx \$6
Departs: Saturday 6.00 a.m.

23 – 25 April – Kaimanawas – A.N.Z.A.C. Weekend

Another exploratory outing to some of the Northern latitudes.

Leader: Catherine Farquhar 63588
Grading: All aspirations will be satisfied
Cost: Approx \$12
Departs: Friday 6.30 p.m.

28 April – CLUB NIGHT

Details next newsletter.

Future Trips

30 April – 1 May: Heritage Hut, Tararuas, - Nigel Seebeck, 89043

1 May: Kapiti Island – Roddy Henderson, 25511

7 – 8 May: Golden Crown Ridge, Ruahines – Trevor Bissell, 73543

NOTICES:

1. New Members

Wayne Macpherson 105 Slacks Road, P.N. ph 74429
Michelle Hobday 668 Main Street, P.N. ph 78473

2. Change of address

Linda Keall and Roddy Henderson are now resident at Linton, Kendalls Line, R.D. 4, P.N. Phone 25511
Lorraine Tremain is at 22 Savage Crescent, P.N. Phone 61769.

3. **Subscriptions** for 1983/84 are due as from 1st March. Because of the price freeze subscriptions will not be increased this year, but prompt payment would be appreciated by our Treasurer. Please pay at club nights or send your cheque to P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North.

4. **Work wanted:** All tent and pack repairs done, cheap rates and quick service. Phone Ken Marshall, Tokomaru 710.

5. **The New Zealand Trampers Handbook**, by Grant Hunter, 1981 \$8.95.

A useful up-to-date book for those beginning tramping. The old Bushcraft Manual is a bit out-of-date although cheaper. This handbook has information on planning trips, food, gear, weather, first aid, navigation etc. The section on navigation is good explaining fully the use of a compass. Also contains info on addresses of N.Z.F.S. etc., weather forecasts. (Available at Bennetts Book Shop.)

6. Those bound for the northern hemisphere this year may be interested in pursuing the Great Outdoors magazine for an introduction to the outdoor scene in the U.K., articles on maps, trails etc. in Europe, Scandinavia, U.S.A. as well as Britain's regions, and ideas on items of gear available over there. Club members are welcome to borrow back issues for 1982 from Peter Clough phone 61271.

ACCOUNTS OF PAST TRIPS

Southern Olivines 5 – 17 February

This P.N.T.M/C./M.U.A.C. trip was one of the few blessed with fine weather this summer. A three day stagger under 16 packs through the Beans Burn, Olivine River and Forgotten River soon had us snow caved on the Olivine Ice Plateau. Two brilliantly fine days enabled most of the surrounding peaks to be climbed and two days later we exited via the Andy couloir and the Williamson River. Difficult travel up the Arawata to the legendary Arawata Rock biv and over into the West Matukituki ended 13 days in this superb area. We were Andrew Hollings, Roy Hora, Robbo Sweet, and John Barkla.

Hallmark Mountain Marathon 26 – 27 February

This event was the first of its kind in New Zealand and was basically a two day test of route finding and stamina. Competitors in pairs made their way around various courses in Tongariro National Park visiting several control points on the way. On the two longer courses, full overnight gear was carried but shorter courses catered for those more interested in exploring and the satisfaction of route finding. Several P.N.T.M.C. members participated, namely:

Kevin Pearce/Peter Baker
Roger Redmayne/Neil Wallace
Catherine Farquhar/Sharon Patterson
John Barkla/Trevor Bissell
Perry Hicks/Harry Osborne

The general feeling was that although very demanding it was most enjoyable and hopefully we will see more of such events in the future.

Anniversary Weekend in the Kaimanawas

Seven club members left Palmerston North in the dark on Saturday morning for a long weekend's tramping in the Kaimanawas. Starting from Access 10, Kevin and John quickly zoomed off to do their own fit trip, while the rest of us ambled off at a more leisurely pace over the Urchin Track. Initially in sunshine interspersed with cloud, by the time we reached the Waipakihi and had lunch the rain set in for the day and after tramping a short way up river we camped for the night near the spot where the map shows the Thunderbolt Track joining the river. (In fact it joins the river some way further south.)

Sunday dawned clear and we had a pleasant tramp up the Waipakihi, reaching the hut in time for lunch. Four of us then set off for an afternoon 'stroll' over the tops and into the Rangitiki River, which we reached in time to do about 1½ hours fishing: some nice pools but no signs of any fish. But it didn't really matter since when we returned to the hut dinner was already cooking!

After a clear night and touch of ground frost we had another pleasant tramp in the sun over the Umakerikeri tops. After lunch we descended into the bush for a less pleasant negotiation of a track strewn with wind-felled trees: plenty of scope for demonstrating our relation to the apes, and for self-inflicted injuries. Emerging hot and scratched at the bottom rather later than planned, it would be nice to know where the rerouted track comes out on the tops!

We were: Peter and Nanette Clough, David Crawford, Michelle Hobday, Richard, (John Barkla and Kevin Pearce).

MIDDLE STREAM – THE NEGLECTED VALLEY – 26 – 27 February

The most direct access to Middle Stream is from the Waipawa River – Triplex Creek road end. After crossing the river and some farmland, occasional inklings of a track were detected amidst scrub, secondary growth and patches of grass. The 'track' splitting of the Middle Stream was encountered entirely by chance. Progress became slower with very little evidence of human traffic and the 1981 map edition being the effort of a fertile imagination rather than topographic reality. (A double arrowed marker, free to rotate, but pointing 90 degrees out did not help a great deal.) However, the hut was reached before midday with the application of only modest effort.

The sparse traffic through the valley was further confirmed upon entering the hut by the pungent smell of a well established family of rats – the only recent residents. (An examination of the logbook (going back about 15 years) showed that there was no record of a P.N.T.M.C. entry.)

Unfortunately, drizzle and cloud descended in the evening, causing us to abandon the idea of camping out. (Fortunately the rats minded their own business, and no direct confrontation ensued.)

Next morning, after climbing about 200 metres, map and reality again parted company, so we decided to head directly up the ridge through the bush. Excellent progress was made so that after gaining a further 400 m we stepped directly from the bush onto mixed grass and scree. At about 9 a.m. a rest and refuelling stop was taken on the ridge top at about 1500 m. The view to the east was impressive, with the area below and as far as sight allowed covered in low cloud except for the rocky tops of the Gwavas Range cutting through it. The ridge then headed to the trip (5650 feet) and continued to Rangioateatua and finally around to Three Johns (directly above Waipawa Saddle.) The going was very easy, with a number of running adjustments being made to dilapidated cairns on the way.

After more R and R at about 11 a.m. on Three Johns, we decided instead of descending to the Saddle and down the river, to “Investigate” the North East Ridge. The descent proved to be fairly typical – moderately dense scrub with leatherwood inclusions followed by stunted bush with patches of dense undergrowth and ferns. By about 2 p.m. we reached the farmland but chose instead of dropping directly to the river, to sidle around to the farm track. This took us almost immediately into thick secondary growth followed by a creek with rather sheer sides. The walk back along the road took us into intimate contact with part of the contents of an aerial topdressing run.

Participants: Peter Wiles, Jane Binnie.

P.S. This valley appears to offer good day trip possibilities via Waipawa Saddle.