



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER
January/February 1985

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE NO FRILLS CARPARK, FERGUSSON STREET. IF YOU WISH TO GO ON A TRIP, YOU MUST ADVISE THE LEADER AT LEAST THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OR WEEKEND TRIP, CONTACT THE LEADER OF THE SCHEDULED TRIP.

COMING EVENTS:

31 January – Barbeque

The first Club Night of the year will be a barbeque to be held at Peter and Nanette Cloughs place, 10 Union Street. Bring your own eats and drinks.

3 February – Ohau Gorge

A pleasant day trip wandering into Ohau Shelter and returning via the easy Ohau gorge. Be prepared to get wet and bring a change of clothes for the end.

Leader:	Daryl Rowan, ph 64655
Grading:	Easy/Medium
Departs:	Sunday 9 a.m.

7 February – Committee Meeting

To be held at 28 Carroll Street beginning at 7.45 p.m. Any member is welcome to attend.

9 - 10 February – North eastern Ruahines

A round trip involving the Waipawa River, Armstrong Saddle and Waipawa Saddle. A chance to stay at the new Sunrise Hut in Buttercup Hollow.

Leader:	Catherine Farquhart ph 80363
Grading:	Medium
Departs:	Saturday 6 a.m.

14 February – Club Night

As most people will have returned from their tramping, climbing, cycling and sun bathing trips, bring along your Xmas slides to share with the rest of us.

7.45 p.m. Thursday

227 College Street, Society of Friends Meeting Rooms.

16 - 17 February – Northern Crossing, Tararuas

A Friday night start into South Ohau Hut and then the route will take in Tarn Ridge and Mitre Flats. Some superb tops travel. Also an opportunity for a day trip in the Mitre Flats area to help with transport.

Leader: Mike Freeman (phone 73543 with names)

Grading: Fit

Departs: Friday 6 p.m.

23 - 24 February – Kaitawa / West Waitewaewae

A trip to a lesser visited area of the Tararuas. A mixture of river and ridge travel. Saturday night will be spent under a fly so bring a groundsheet and sleeping mat. Plenty of scope for more difficult trips as well.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, ph 73543

Grading: Medium

Departs: Saturday 7 a. m.

28 February – Formal Club Night

Slides from the F.M.C. technicolour spectaculars on the Hooker/Landsborough valleys and/or The Tasman Wilderness.

7.45 p.m. Thursday

227 College Street, Society of Friends Meeting Rooms.

1. **New Member**

A warm welcome to:

Sue Patterson 321 Botanical Road, P.N. 72360

2. **Addition to Membership List**

Trevor Brill R.D. 1 Aokautere 70098

3. **Senior Trampers Marathon 1985**

Organised by the Tararua Tramping Club. The race will be run over the Catchpole/Orongorongo course on Saturday, 9th February at 4.00 p.m. Individuals and team entries are accepted (four runners constitute a team). For further information, rules, contact Kevin Pearce ph 70217 no later than Friday evening, 1st February.

TRIP REPORTS:

17 - 18 November – McGregor Biv

The walk into Mitre Flats was uneventful. By the time the rest of us arrived at the hut a few minutes after Trev, we found him grinning from ear to ear with stories of enormous rats, supreme courage and pointing to a corner of the hut with blood stains.

After crossing South Mitre Stream we headed up a new Batton track and stopped for lunch at the bushline in the rain. On Baldy the rain turned to sleet, clearing again by the time we reached Cairn. Scrambling over Broken Axe Pinnacles and McGregor the little orange biv came into view and by 4.30 p.m. we were there. We pitched the fly onto the end of the biv but with heavy rain likely, five of us squeezed in for the night, the sixth coming in during the early hours of the morning. Mark slept comfortably in a hammock slung from the roof.

On Sunday it was raining heavily as we retraced steps to the top of the range. Here it was extremely windy as we battled over Angle Knob to Jumbo, several times being blown off the ridge. At Jumbo Hut we had an early lunch before dropping to the Atiwhakatu Stream and climbing on to Pinnacle Saddle. After some confusion with tracks we travelled down a debris choked stream to a swollen Waingawa River. Eventually a crossing was made and we bashed on up to the Sidle track and hence back to the van.

We were: Malcolm McArthur, Stephen Moore, Trevor Bissell, Alan Montgomery, Mark Woodruffe and John Barkla.

1 -2 December – Otaki Gorge

Some hesitation in crossing the Otaki and steady drizzle-rain did not bode well for a pleasant trip. However by midday the forecast clearance was obvious to our wishful eyes and, having eaten lunch and repacked our gear in multiple plastic bags» we started down the Otaki in cool sunshine. The river was low so the first crossings were trivial. John demonstrated the advantages of a wet suit by floating some of the pools while the rest of us scrambled around on the rocks. Finally the river passed into a chute leading to a long pool and a swim was inevitable. No problems, though Linda's rather buoyant pack kept trying to drown her head. Repeated crossings, wades, swims and/or scrambles gave interesting travel. An aggressive boot eel (one of several seen) provided added interest but eventually was discouraged by being stomped on (with the other boot). Finally the upper gorge ended in an open section where a Forestry Bivy was spotted and visited. A further hours travel and one last exhilarating swim brought us to a fine campsite and a dry, starry night.

Sunday saw more of the same with easier country becoming gorgy again after Penn Creek. A little technique was required for one pool in order to avoid being swept back upstream in some strong eddies. Another unmarked hut was visited just before a final long swim beneath the Waitewaewae bridge brought us to the car for lunch.

We were: Linda Russ, Daryl Rowan, John Barkla, Mark Woodruff.

8 - 15 December – Cook River, South Westland.

Arriving at Fox Glacier on Saturday the 8 December, Robbo Sweet and I sorted out a huge pile of gear we considered necessary for a week's climbing up the Cook Valley. Finally packed, we first visited the almost complete N.X.A.C. Westland Base Hut before driving south to the Cook River bridge. It was 2 p.m. before we left and five minutes after leaving the road it began to rain. The travel is good up to Balfour River confluence, some two hours tramping. Shortly after this a blazed trail begins and it was here we called it a day, absolutely drenched and a little demoralised.

After a most uncomfortable night under a large rock we set out in the rain following blazes. There is no track as such – it is a matter of going from one marker to the next, the problem being that many are now buried deep beneath windfalls and slips. The route is often high above the river and only occasionally does it utilise the river boulders. With heavy packs and under wet conditions progress was slow but a 13 hour day put us well in to the scrub zone, only two hours from the La Perouse Glacier terminal. We slept beneath the fly under a clear sky.

Monday was the only fine day of the trip and it was with some relief that we reached the glacier and no longer had to contend with the bush. The head of the valley is very beautiful with the peaks of La Perouse, Cook and Tasman being the most imposing. We climbed up into a large basin beneath the West Ridge of La Perouse and spent the rest of the afternoon choosing a bivy rock, finally deciding on one at the snowline at 1500 metres.

For the next two days we were confined to the dripping biv doing lots of sleeping, eating and reading. Thursday morning dawned clear and we set out for La Perouse. Reaching the West Ridge we traversed some rock gendarmes before a final steep snow slope took us on to the summit ridge at 2700 metres. The weather had deteriorated considerably and the summit was obscured. We waited for an improvement but instead it began snowing and whited out. Disappointed at being so close we roped up for the descent. It rained back at the bivy rock so we decided to return to the valley floor and hopefully a better bivy .

The descent down wet snow grass was a curse and the new bivy rock little better than the one we had left, although by rigging the fly over the entrance we kept reasonably dry.

For the next day and a half we retraced our steps back down the valley (still raining) and emerged at the road bridge midday on Saturday 15 December.

Although we had not made it on to the upper La Perouse neve as planned we were happy with our climb and keen to return in more favourable weather.

John Barkla.

Other Trips:

26/12/84 D Rowan, L Ru.ss, W + M Jones: Herepai - East Peak – Haukuia bivy – Roaring Stag Hut and out

26/12/84 Roger Redmayne + Bredon Shephard: Day trip down Chamberlain Creek, reportedly good abseils, chest deep wades in creek and "rather tired".