



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEWSLETTER

June/July 1985

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Membership Enquiries:	Nanette Clough	ph 61-271
Gear Custodian:	Philip Budding	ph 85-936
Newsletter Editor:	Peter Clough	ph 61-271

ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Damienne Eder	Home	71-785	
Nigel Seebeck		89-043	Work 79-129
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John Barkla/ Trevor Bissell:		73-543	

ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE NO FRILLS CARPARK, FERGUSON 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:

27 June Formal Club Night

Eric van Toor, a seasoned campaigner with the club, will present a slide session and talk on aspects of canoeing (slalom, river running, sea and lake, racing etc.). Canoeing has long been a popular sport in New Zealand with a strong appeal to outdoors people.

Time: 7.45 p.m.
Venue: 227 College Street

29-30 June Mid-winter at Rangī

Chase away those mid-winter blues with some fine dining in the hills. There is a choice of routes proposed:

A week-end trip via the Oroua River arriving either Saturday evening or Sunday morning (sounds ominous!)

Leader: Trevor Bissell ph 73-543
Depart: Saturday, 6 a.m.
Grade: Medium/Fit

A possible cycle ride to Rangī (or at least to the road end)

Leader: Mike Freeman ph 61-137
Depart: Saturday or Sunday morning
Grade: Lots of pedal-pushing leg power (it's about 45 miles)

The usual meandering up to Rangī hut on either Saturday or Sunday.

Contact: Damienne Eder ph 71-785

A dinner's being organised for Sunday mid-day which you can savour for a few dollars. Remember to bring utensils for soup and the main course. B.Y.O. drink, preferably red if you like mulled wine. So that food can be organised, please ring Damienne by 25 June if you wish to be catered for.

4 July Committee Meeting

All members are welcome to attend, participate or simply marvel at the machinations of the club's committee. A chance for everyone to contribute to the running of the club, or to raise issues of importance to trampers.

Time: 7.45 p.m.

Venue: Damienne's place at 155 Heretautga Street, Palmerston Nth.

6-7 July Introduction to Snowcraft

This course is for any club members, new or not-so-new, who want to gain basic snowcraft skills. A moderate degree of fitness will ensure you get the most out of this course. Rangipo Hut on the Tukino side of Mount Ruapehu will be the base.

Leader: Trevor Bissell ph73-543

Grade: Medium-Easy

Depart: Saturday 5.30 a.m.

11 July Informal Club Night

Lyn Smith will be addressing the club in the role of Civil Defence in the community. A far cry from tramping, you might think, or is it? Find out for yourself how abseiling, map reading and other bush skills fit in when dealing with the disaster we all hope will never happen.

Time: 7.45 p.m.

Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Room, 227 College Street, P.N.

13-14 July Ruahines – Kawhatau area

A chance to explore the Kawhatau area, which includes the highest points in the Ruahines.

Leader: Urs Schupbach ph 80-245

Grade: Medium

Depart: Saturday 7a.m.

20-21 July Mitre Peak, Tararuas

Various options are open on this trip to the highest peak in the Tararuas.

Leader: Nigel Seebeck ph 89-043

Grade: Medium-Fit

Depart: Friday 6.30 p.m.

21 July Manawatu Gorge

There's been some talk recently about establishing a track or walkway in the scenic reserve on the southern side of the Manawatu Gorge. Come and find out what this will entail, before the track is established.

Leader: Peter Clough ph 61-271

Grade: Medium

Depart: Sunday 7 a.m.

25 July Formal Club Night

Time to take the students down a degree or two in the annual debate between P.N.T.M.C. and Massey University Alpine Club. The motion to be debated is "There should be more development in our hills". M.U.A.C. will choose whether to argue for or against this motion, but either way we hope our team will argue more effectively and retain the coveted trophies (the boot and the cup) for a second year. Interjections from the floor are welcomed (especially if aimed at the opposition!) so come along for some light-hearted entertainment, as the speakers try to articulate their thoughts.

Time: 7.45 p.m.

Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, P.N.

27-28 July Snowcraft I

A follow-up from the introductory snowcraft course, for beginners and others wishing to practice and refine techniques such as step-cutting, self-arrest etc. The base will be Rangipo Hut, Mount Ruapehu.

Leader: Mike Freeman ph.61-137

Grade: Medium

Departs: Friday 6.30 p.m.

3-4 August Northern Tararuas

More details next newsletter.

Leader: Brenton Sheppard. ph 70-109 (week-days)
 Grade: Medium
 Depart: Saturday

27 July Round Trip to Rangī Hut, Whanahua Range, Western Ruahines

For those who wish to practise their navigation and map reading skills this day trip via the new alternative route to Rangī Hut is for you. Hopefully there will be lots of cloud cover and crud!

Leader: Trish Eder ph 70-217
 Grade: Easy
 Depart: Saturday 7 a.m.

* SOME EXTRA EVENTS FOR THIS COMING MONTH *

Tuesday 25 June Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club Night

We have been invited to attend a slide session being given by Dick Renny, about "A traverse of the Kōlahoi Glacier in Kashmir". This was accomplished in winter with the aid of Nordic skis (the skinny ones fastened only at the toe) in the company of Graeme Dingle.

Time: 8 p.m.
 Venue: The Jaycee Hall, Lombard Street, Palmerston North

Tuesday 9 July Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Meeting

We have been kindly invited by the R.F.B.P.S. to a meeting at which Alan Knowles will show slides from the recent N.Z. Alpine Club expedition to South Georgia. The venue will be the John Bolt Memorial Theatre, upstairs in the Library Building in Main Street, Palmerston North. Entrance is on the eastern side of the building, opposite the Courthouse. A charge of 50 cents will be made to cover supper.

Those wishing to attend are asked to please phone Trevor Bissell (73-543) by 5 July so that R.F.B.P.S. know how many to cater for.

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NOTICES:**1. Subscriptions**

All members are reminded that subscriptions for the year 1985/6 are now due and may be paid to the Treasurer at the next club night. Our subscriptions for the year are:

Family \$15.00
 Senior \$12.00
 Junior \$7.00 (school-age)

THOSE WHO WERE MEMBERS LAST YEAR AND HAVE NOT YET RENEWED THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE REMINDED THAT THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER THEY WILL RECEIVE UNLESS THEIR MEMBERSHIP IS RENEWED.

2. ALL TRIP LEADERS ARE REMINDED THAT FOR EVERY TRIP THEY SHOULD LEAVE AN INTENTIONS LIST WITH EITHER ONE OF THE CLUB CONTACTS FOR OVERDUE TRIPS OR WITH PALMERSTON NORTH POLICE STATION, DETAILING WHO IS ON THE TRIP, WHERE IT IS GOING, AND WHEN IT IS EXPECTED TO RETURN. LEADERS MUST ALSO NOTIFY THE CONTACT CONCERNED WHEN THEIR PARTY ARRIVES BACK IN PALMERSTON.

Any leaders unsure of these procedures can obtain details of leaders' responsibilities from Philip Budding (ph 85-936).

3. CONGRATULATIONS

To Philip Budding and Linda Herdman who were married on 8 June.

4. NEW MEMBER

We welcome to our club,
 Mary Craw R.D. 3 Palmerston North

5. TRAVEL EXPENSES

Those who used their vehicles for Pinus contorta exercise earlier this year are reminded to put in a claim for their vehicle expenses.

6. **Federated Mountain Clubs of N.Z. Annual General Meeting 25 May**

Three of our club members travelled down to Wellington on 25 May to take part in F.M.C.'s A.G.M. for this year. Apart from the usual club house-keeping which is common to A.G.M.s, discussions on a range of issues relating to tramping and F.M.C.'s activities were held. Among the points of interest were:

a) A motion was passed in favour of maintaining the current format of the F.M.C. newsletter/bulletin. (This is a biased sample – we know many people do not read the bulletin, but not why not, and of course most of those who attended the A.G.M. would be readers. SO, if you have any comment about the suitability or otherwise of the F.M.C. bulletin, I would be pleased to hear them and pass them onto F.M.C. - Ed.)

b) The question of paid staff for F.M.C. was raised - more particularly for a part-time secretary and national office to be established. There was no opposition to this move on principle, but there was concern that

i) budgeting was currently too low to be effective;

ii) there is too much time taken up by conservation issues, rather than by recreational issues, according to some;

iii) there was some concern that interest in F.M.C. is failing because it has not sold itself to its member clubs, so paid staff would not necessarily be effectively used.

The paid staff issue is not going to be resolved this year: a job description will be specified for approval at next year's A.G.M..

This means that any increase in our club subscriptions to cover F.M.C. subscriptions can be deferred until next financial year.

c) A motion was passed endorsing the National Parks and Reserves Authority's recommendation to create a new Punakaiki National Park on the West Coast. For more details, see the current F.M.C. bulletin, No 82.

d) A motion was passed opposing the proposed development of Deep Cove in Fiordland National Park for water exporting.

e) Notice was given of the National Park Centennial Celebrations to be held next year, and delegates were asked to consider what F.M.C. and its constituent clubs might do to contribute to the celebrations. Things such as club-assisted trips to National Parks for children or handicapped people were mentioned. Any ideas for P.N.T.M.C.?

Those present for the club were John Barkla, Peter Clough & Kirsten Simonsen

7. **Photographic Contest**

Once again we had a lot of interest and entries for our club's photographic contest, and a high proportion of entries were judged good enough to be commended. The winning entries for each class were:

Landscape: John Barkla's shot of Dundas Ridge in smoky/foggy condition.

Topical: Trevor Bissell's shot of climbers on Mount Evans

Natural History: Darryl Rowan's shot of gentians in the Nelson Lakes.

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all those who took part.

8. **Rangi Hut Photos**

Yes it's me again on the hunt for more old slides and pictures of Rangi Hut for the proposed pictorial board in the Hut. So if you can help please dig out any slides or prints you may have and see me at Club night or phone.

Thanks,

Nigel Seebeck (ph 89-043)

9. **New Zealand Alpine Club – Wellington Section**

With the recent increase in the Wellington Section of N.Z.A.C. numbers in this area it is time to show that the Palmerston North subsection is still alive and kicking.

Anyone interested in making up a car-full to attend the section meetings in Wellington) more regularly on Monday nights should contact Nigel Seebeck (89-043) for more details.

TRIP REPORTS:**5 May Kaiparoro, Eastern Tararuas**

This was an easy trip with a total of about 3 hours walking. Initially up a steep 4-wheel drive track from the Makakahi Valley through regenerating Kamahi and beech forest, we picked up a devious foot track along the ridge leading to Kaiparoro. A short walk along this and we were out in the tall red tussock for which this area is renowned. Unfortunately a very cold wind curtailed activities to short struggle along the tops, but at least the tussock gave us shelter for lunch.

The weather drove us to lower levels after lunch and with some of the afternoon remaining we visited the Wildlife Centre at Mount Bruce. It was a good opportunity to observe some of the lesser known birds such as the kokako, takahe, saddleback and black stilt (which, incidentally, do have two legs and are not the unfortunate result of a cloning experiment!).

Those on the trip were: John Barkla, Lorraine Bray, Heather Clay, Terry Crippen, William Crossar, Anne Jaggard, Murray Jesson, Brent Matheson, Don McKellar and Sheena Taylor.

19 May The Peak-with-no-name, Not-quite-Toka, Ngamoko Range

This trip originated from the leader's desire to complete the circuit up to Toka via the Shorts and Deerford tracks. Things augured well as we arrived at the road end: the sun was shining, there was a fresh coating of snow on the tops and the whole Ngamoko Range looked most inviting before us. Taking a detour round the nature trail at the start of Shorts track, we proceeded up through the bush. Once on the tops, however, going was a lot slower than anticipated, since the snow was knee-deep, soft with a crusty top, so that step-plugging and breaking through was the order of the day. We had lunch by the peak-with-no-name just south of Toka, by which time we realised we didn't have enough daylight to complete the circuit, so we returned back the way we had come. So the leader still hasn't reached Toka (after yet another attempt) – but he'll be back!

Another group of club members did succeed in the Toka circuit that day. They left Palmerston even earlier in the morning and found some useful footsteps waiting for them when they came back down.

We were: Nanette and, Peter Clough, Terry Crippen, Julian Dalefield, Sarah Godfrey, Malcolm MacArthur, Urs Schupbach.

Those completing the circuit were: Catherine Farquhar, Jane Binnie and Kirsten Simonsen.

Of Roaring Stags and Other Things

How do you fit 10 people into two vehicles?

Answer: at a squeeze!

So it was as we headed for the Putara road end in behind Eketahuna. Without too much pain we arrived at the Herepai/Roaring Stag junction. Linda and Daryl took the direct route to Roaring Stag Hut while the rest of us bush-bashed down to Ruapae Stream. In pleasant surroundings we headed down to the hut and met up with the others, after which we headed back out to the vehicles and home again.

We were: Damienne, Catharine, Linda, Daryl, Philippa, Terry, Julian, John and James.

A Xmas Trip to Samuel Butler Country

Our road left the Canterbury Plains at Mount Somers, ascended the south branch of the Ashburton River and crossed into the Rangitata valley. It ended at the Erewhon Station homestead further up the valley near the junction of the Havelock and Clyde rivers.

Our intention had been to walk up the Clyde and climb peaks on the Armoury Range from the Sinclair River. It was soon clear that we might not be able to cross the first major tributary, the Lawrence, let alone the Clyde itself. So we proceeded up the true left of the Lawrence, eventually crossed the river at a place where it split into several streams, and packed ourselves into the Lawrence Biv, where we sat out a storm on day 2.

A good day followed and we crossed into the Lyell catchment via the Ambrose Saddle at 6,750 feet. To do this we climbed the ridge north of the biv. and sidled westward into a hanging valley. This gave access to steepish slopes of firm snow leading northward to the saddle. The descent into a basin on the Lyell side was straightforward. From here a narrow scree-sided valley descended steeply, but without waterfalls, into the Lyell.

Next morning was spent listening to heavy rain on the roof of the Lyell Hut but excursions were made to Prelude Peak (6420'), the Lyell Glacier and Meins Knob during the afternoon. Day 5 was a good one and we ascended the Cockayne Glacier to a Saddle between Mount Ramsay (8100') and Kinkel (7150'). From here Ramsay was climbed by its south ridge which proved to be narrow and steep with alternating rock and icy snow. After enjoying the excellent view for miles around (mountains, mountains and yet more mountains) we walked down the easy slopes of the Clarke Glacier to the north. We then sought a route onto the Radiant Glacier in order to attempt a climb up Mount Blair (8185') but abandoned this scheme which faced with a steep descent of 1000' and the arrival of the afternoon mist. A straightforward saddle led back to the Cockayne Glacier and we beat a retreat, deviating to climb Kinkel on the way. Next day poured with rain and we read books and discussed the problem of how to get out of the area if all the rivers were in flood!

On day 7 we were forced to set out for the Lawrence Valley via the Butler Saddle in light rain and a nor'westerly wind. High on the ridge leading to the Jollie Sisters we were able to sidle into a basin leading to a good (unnamed) saddle. By now it was raining steadily with occasional flashes of lightning and rolls of thunder, but at least the wind had dropped. A scree descent and a boulder hop down a stream led to the Lawrence which of course was running high. A detour of 3 kilometres upstream yielded a crossing and a 9 kilometre boulder-hop and shingle slog down the other side (the true left and therefore flood-free access to civilisation) led to a station hut and shelter from the rain.

Day 8 was spent footslogging down the Lawrence and Clyde with numerous sidles when the river cut into small bluffs. Back in Christchurch it was some comfort to read of the troubles of numerous holidaymakers who were rescued from campsites flooded by the rivers of Nelson and Marlborough.

The trip was enjoyable and the area is well worth another visit, there being numerous good peaks to climb or walk among (preferably in good weather).

Party: Peter Wiles, Paul Richardson, Urs Schupbach and Trevor Bissell.

Round Egmont in a Day (Easter Saturday)

To successfully undertake this enterprise you will need the following:

- a) 2-3 weeks of dry weather prior to the attempt;
- b) good weather on the day;
- c) the minimum amount of gear;
- d) a large number of daylight hours;
- e) a good pair of legs and lungs;
- f) a modicum of masochism
- g) an early start.

Heather and I left the Stratford Plateau carpark at 6.30 a.m., hoping to complete the clockwise circuit in less than 10 hours. Weather was perfect, if a little nippy at first. We jogged down to Dawson Falls in only 20 minutes and then slogged up the track until it turns off to Mangahume Hut. The sidle route was good and we briskly tramped along to Mangahume Hut where we overtook a large group that had just finished breakfast. The track dropped down to Oaonui Hut on the south-western slopes. The going was smooth and easy so we jogged easily down, slowing to a brisk tramp once down in the bush, still making excellent time.

The bush track was really dry and pleasant for travelling, and we jogged past Kahui Hut until the track began to steepen. The track to Holly Hut was full of contrasts, mostly 'joggable'. Surrounded by bush shirts and boots at Holly Hut we felt rather self-conscious, since the assembled masses must have thought we were either mad, lost or both.

The track to Tahurangi Lodge was great for jogging, although by this stage we were not quite as frisky as we had been earlier! Definitely a bit of a slog up past Humphries Castle to the Lodge, where we took a rehydration stop and watched the masses descending the 'Big E'. The last leg downhill was unexpectedly long, or maybe it was just the legs slowing down. However, we knew we were well under 10 hours and thus were feeling pretty chuffed as we shuffled past day-trippers. We clocked in at 9½ hours and cracked open the celebratory fruit juices. We were: Mike Freeman and Heather Clay.