



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
NEWSLETTER

September/October 1985

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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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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.

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## COMING EVENTS:

### September 26 Formal Club Night

Dr Vince Neall will show slides on the eruption of Mount St Helens in Washington State, U.S.A. This volcano violently rearranged its topography in 1980, causing massive damage over a wide area. Food for thought for those who make regular visits to the Egmont and Tongariro National Parks!

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms,  
227 College Street, P.N.

### September 28 - 29 Caving trip to Wairoa, Hawkes Bay

For those who were inspired by the recently shown film, this is your chance to have a go. Contact Peter for further details, as soon as possible.

Leader: Peter Entwistle, ph 71785  
Departs: Probably Friday evening.

### October 3 Committee Meeting

This month's meeting will be Mike Freeman's swansong with P.N.T.M.C. – appropriately enough at his place. All members are welcome to attend and participate.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: 46 Collingwood Street, Palmerston North.

### **October 5 - 6 Eastern Ruahines**

Leaving from Makaroa Base, this tramp will head into the Gold Creek, Sparrow Hawke Biv area. While this is a medium trip if anyone wishes to do a fit trip in this area there is plenty of scope so contact the leaders with your ideas.

Leaders: Linda and Daryl Rowan ph 64655  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: 7 a.m. Saturday

### **October 12 - 13 Tongariro National Park**

We have M.U.A.C. Hut booked for this weekend. Skiing is on for those who wish to brave the slopes or an open climbing weekend, the minimum requirement for this is that you have 'snowcraft experience'.

Leader: Mike Freeman, ph 61137  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Friday 6.30 p.m.

### **October 12 or 13 Day trip to Tararuas**

Another attempt at the oft-postponed trip into the Waikawa area from the North Manakau road end. Be prepared for some stream, bush and self-navigation.

Leader: Catherine Farquhar, ph 80363  
Grade: Medium/Fit  
Departs: 6 a.m. day negotiable.

### **17 October Formal Club Night**

A speaker from the N.Z.F.S. will discuss the policy implications of concessions in our National Parks and State Forest Parks. Proposed developments at Otaki Forks will also be examined.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms  
227 College Street, P.N.

### **October 19 - 20 Tararuas**

An easy weekend into a very pleasant area, mostly river travel to Mitre Flats Hut, return same route.

Leader: Cheryl Peters, ph 65581  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: 7.30 a.m.

### **October 26 - 27 Hikurangi Ruahines**

A chance to explore the area around the second highest summit on the Ruahines.

Leader: Roger Redmayne, ph Halcombe 746  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: 7 a.m. Saturday

### **October 27 Ruahines. Te Awa area**

Arthur will take you on a guided tour of the Te Awa sand gullies and Soil Conservation Reserve. This should prove to be an interesting and educational trip for those who like to know a little more about the area you tramp. A family type trip leaving at a very civilised time.

Leader: Arthur Todd, ph 36246  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: 9 a.m. Sunday

### **31 October Formal Club Night**

John Barkla and Kevin Pearce will show slides on their recent ski mountain-mountaineering trips in the Westland and Mount Cook National Parks.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, P.N.

### **NOTICES:**

#### **1. SECRETARY FLEES COUNTRY – PRESIDENT PLANS GET AWAY**

#### **Shock Horror Probe : Resignations**

Mike Freeman and Heather Clay, President and Secretary respectively, have resigned from their positions. "We are moving to Christchurch in early November and looking forward to being so close to the big hills. Heather is going

trekking in Nepal for the rest of September and most of October. We wish the new President, Nigel Seebeck, and Secretary, John Barkla, every success".

M.C.F. & H.A.C.

Seriously, it is with regret that the Club Committee accepted the resignations. We thank Mike and Heather for their contribution to the Club over the years, not just as President and Secretary but as Leaders and Participants on innumerable trips. Good luck down south.

### **TRIP REPORTS:**

#### **27 July Round Trip to Rangī**

This day trip was intended to develop our navigation and map reading skills. After a dose of theory we were eager to put compass to map and start navigating. There was an initial slight snag as we had to decide where we were, however, it was soon agreed that the carpark was incorrectly placed on the map. This overcome, we set off up the new alternative Rangī track without further hindrance 'till the snow started getting deep. The going became very slow with the snow being waist-deep in places. A marrow-chilling coldness developed the area. Fortunately, the bite of the cold was counteracted by the captivating elegance of the snow clad veges and by the quietude of our surroundings. At around 4000 ft we decided to head down to the van for lunch. Navigation was easy as we merely retraced our footsteps along the sunken path we had created. We made a steady descent only interrupted briefly while a few snowballs were exchanged.

After a decent feed and thaw we canned the idea of heading back up the usual track to Rangī. Driving home we noticed how swollen the rivers were and how there was a river where a river usually was not. Our progress was soon checked by a gimonstrous slip (fairly sizable anyway) forming a blockade across the road. Trev gave us a demo of a classic 5-point turn and we were off, fingers crossed, along the alternative road thru Apiti. We edged our way past a few more slips and also past some big puddles so as not to get the brakes wet and slip a disc. We may not have made the planned round trip to Rangī but we did have sort of a round trip back and we never got lost.

We were; Trevor Bissell, Trish Eder, Doug Strachan, Sheena Taylor, John Thompson, Leslie Warburton.

#### **17 August Day Trip Tararua**

The clouds were low around the ranges but hopes were high of the weather lifting. By 8 a.m. we were at the Otaki Forks car park and ready to walk up the ridge to Fields Hut. Morning tea was had at the hut, then we continued up the ridge into the snow and cloud. The high point for the trip was Table Top. After finding the ridge down to Penn Creek it started to snow. The walk down to Penn Creek Hut was done in the rain. On arrival the rain stopped and the sun began to shine. Lunch was eaten outside the hut in the sun.

We walked back to the carpark along the Penn Creek, Otaki Forks track. After a stop at Otaki for ice creams it was back to Palmerston North.

People on the trip: Jeff Hall, John Thomson, Darren Scott.

#### **23 – 24 - 25 August '85 "How-to-hang-a-turkey"!**

Five of us left P.N. in the comfort of an Austin AG van on the Friday night bound for TNP. Our hopes were high as the weather looked as though it was going to be great for the weekend. After having camped out at Mahuia just before the turn-off to the Chateau we awoke to low mist and drizzle. Our spirits were not dampened and soon we were on our merry way in the general direction of Whakapaupaiti Hut from the Chateau. Just as we were approaching the Silica Rapids the clouds started to lift and the bright whiteness of Ruapehu loomed against the blue sky. From the Rapids we tramped cross-country to the hut where we had afternoon tea in the sunshine. Afterwards we strolled along the edge of the Hauhungatahi (How-to-hang-a-turkey) Wilderness Area, very open and barren.

Unfortunately Sunday did not turn out to be all that brilliant, so it was decided to head straight for the Chateau via the track. Once there it was not long before we were in our dry clothes and on our way back to P. N. A good relaxing weekend.

We were: Cheryl and Graham Peters, Patricia Eder, Nanette and Peter Clough.

#### **September 7 - 8 Ruahines Weekend Trip**

Weather looked 'unstable' so the scheduled Ngamoko range trip was diverted to a Makaretu River-Awatere Hut-Long View Hut circuit and this was generally more sheltered than the other would have been. The river stretch seemed to

take us a while and the water temperature felt extremely low – so low in fact, that one could lose a healthy toe-nail and not know it till late in the day when feet thawed out. (And no, this was no reflection on the normal sensory capacities of the person concerned.)

Anyway we wandered into Awatere Hut mid to late afternoon where upon finding not enough mattresses to go around (and suspecting they would not do too well in the bidding), Trish and Catherine departed for Longview Hut. The A-Frame Hut acted like a beacon as strong cold winds (and spindrift) slowed our progress. A short 'hands and knees' stretch (necessary to remain in contact with the ground) led us to the shelter of the hut just on dusk. (To be greeted by cigarettes, cans of beer and blaring transistor radio of 3 resident deerstalkers - Ahh, but it was good to be out of the wind!)

Sunday the wind was still flattening so we headed back down the way we had come (in to the river), instead of continuing down the ridge to Makaretu Hut, and we caught up with the others an hour or so in from the road end, after a pleasant, if cold, wander downstream. An excellent circuit for a weekend trip. Visiting Longview from the Pohangina side would also be a worthwhile trip. Lots of scope in this area for trips.

Trip partakers were: Liz Morrison, Cheryl Peters, Graeme Peters, Trish Eder, Catherine Farquhar.

### **Sunday 15 September Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve**

Well yet again the scheduled trip was re-scheduled. (No, the leader doesn't claim total – or even half – responsibility for this. Actually it's called flexibility!) Anyway, Margaret Riordon, Terry Coburn, Deirdre Le Feve and Catherine Farquhar enjoyed a sunny wander along the reserve and it was decided by common consent that river trips could wait until November – or at least, October.