



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

October/November 1986

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|-----------------------|----------------|--------|
| Membership Enquiries: | Lorraine Bray  | 86-966 |
| Secretary:            | Trevor Bissell | 73-543 |
| Gear Custodian:       | Dave Barker    | 78-762 |
| Newsletter Editor:    | Peter Clough   | 61-271 |

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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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|-----------------|------------------|----|--------|
| John Barkla:    | Tel. Home 73-543 | Wk | 89-109 |
| Trevor Bissell: | 73-543           |    | 74-129 |
| Peter Clough    | 61-271           |    | 69-099 |
| Tricia Eder     | 71-785           |    |        |

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE CAR PARK OUTSIDE FOODTOWN IN 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.

Members are reminded that a charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip, the amount depending on the distance travelled and vehicles used. Leaders can give an estimate in advance, if requested.

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## COMING EVENTS:

### Thursday 30 October – Club Night

Tonight Trevor Bissell will be presenting a pictorial tour of the South Island. However, he hasn't seen it all and is looking for others' slides to add to the presentation. So if you've got some slides of South Island tramps you'd like to present to the Club, contact Trevor on 73543 so he can co-ordinate slides into a really memorable collection of southern scenes.

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

### 1-2 November – Waitatapia Stream

This seldom visited valley near Otaki Forks in the Tararua Range has many superb grassy clearings for fly camping. Come and see for yourselves.

Contact: John Barkla ph 73543  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday 7a.m.

### 2 November – Day Trip

A mystery trip of unknown destination, but it will be local and won't be too difficult.

Leader: Sheena Taylor ph 76665  
Grade: Easy

Departs: Sunday 8 a.m.

### **Thursday 6 November – Committee Meeting**

Another chance for members to get together with the Club committee and give their ideas for future Club activities. All are welcome to attend.

Time: 7.45 p.m.

Venue: 73 Long Melford Drive, Palmerston North.

### **8-9 November – Search and Rescue Exercise**

Our Club will be providing a team of four plus an umpire in this exercise to be held in the Mangahao catchment of the Tararuas. This is a good opportunity to expand your knowledge of S.A.R., so contact Philip for details.

Contact: Philip Budding ph 248780 (Rongotea)

Grade: At least medium

Depart: Friday night

### **9 November - Panatewaewae Day Trip**

A pleasant bit of stream travel behind Manakau, in the Tararuas.

Leader: John Barkla ph 73543

Grade: Medium

Departs: Sunday 7 a.m.

### **Thursday 13 November – Club Night**

At last, after an earlier postponement, Lesley Warburton will be presenting an illustrated account of her visit to the People's Republic of China last year. She spent rather longer than the recent royal walkabout and has some fine photographic records of her stay.

Time: 7.45 p.m.

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

### **15-16 November - Kylie Biv**

This is a combined Club effort between PNTMC and the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club, in the Makororo catchment of the north-eastern Ruahine Range. A good mixture of river and tops travel with some new faces.

Leader: Dave Barker ph 78762

Grade: Fit

Departs: Friday Night 6 p.m.

### **16 November – Day Trip**

Anyone interested in a day trip to the same general area (NE Ruahines) should give Dave a ring on 78762. Details yet to be arranged.

### **22-23 November – Mitre Flats**

Urs will have another attempt at tackling the Tararua Tops in the vicinity of Mitre Flats.

Leader: Urs Schupbach ph 80245

Grade: Fit

Departs: Friday 6 p.m.

### **22 November – Cow Creek Day Trip**

This trip in the eastern Tararuas from Kiriwhakapapa involves mainly ridge travel with a circuit taking in Cow Creek hut (and cage bridge).

Leader: Dave Crawford ph 78762

Grade: Medium

Departs: Saturday 7 a.m.

### **Thursday 27 November – CHRISTMAS DINNER**

It may be a bit early, but just look on it as another 'first' for the Club. In place of the usual Club night, tonight's dinner is to be held at the Chalet overlooking the Lagoon in Centennial Drive, Palmerston North. The gathering starts for pre-dinner drinks at 6.30 p.m., and the serious eating begins at 7.30. Afterwards a lively evening is ensured with Chris Morton's Disco providing the "vibes" for celebrating the occasion in the appropriate manner. All this and the three course dinner is available for \$20 per person, with drinks on a B.Y.O.G. basis. Tickets are available from Nanette Clough (ph 61271) who MUST HAVE NAMES BY 19 NOV. (It would be appreciated if the names are accompanied by money!)

### **29-30 November – Dundas Ridge**

A round trip in some classic tramping country in the Tararuas, taking in Te Matawai Hut, Arete Biv, Dundas Ridge & Peak, Avalanche Flats and the Ohau River.

Leader: Trevor Bissell ph 73543  
 Grade: Fit  
 Departs: Friday 6 p.m.

### **30 November - Longview Hut, Ruahines**

A chance to find out whether this hut deserves its name on this ramble in the Ruahines from the Kashmir Road end. Don't be fooled - the route involves a 600 metre climb – but if the weather's fine you're bound to be rewarded with the views around the Pohangina Saddle and surrounding hills.

Leader: Peter Clough ph 61271  
 Grade: Medium  
 Departs: 7.30 a.m. Sunday

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### **NOTICES:**

#### **1/ New Members**

We welcome to our club  
 Monica Cantwell,  
 58 Churchill Avenue,  
 Palmerston North ph 83834

... and look forward to seeing her out in the hills

#### **2/ Congratulations**

To Dave Barker, Cheryl Peters and Debbie Hughes (and not forgetting the chirruping computer!), who in the annual debate between PNTMC and Massey Alpine Club on 23 September waxed long and eloquently and succeeded in retaining the coveted debating trophy. We're not sure who walked off with the cup and who got the boot (literally) but they are bound to make a fine addition to any mantelpiece.

#### **3/ Do YOU Know Where You're Going?**

IF NOT, you need a map! But with the recent price increases and GST bringing the price of a topographic map up to \$7.70 or thereabouts, maybe you'd think twice about buying one.

"Federated Mountain Clubs is offering 33⅓% discount to clubs who can put in orders of 20 maps or more. This'll bring the price down to around \$5.20. If you're interested in placing an order through the Club, contact John Barkla on 73543 – NOW!

#### **4/ Mountain and Forest Trust**

The Club recently decided to make a donation to FMC's Mountain and Forest Trust, which has been set up to provide funds for research relating to recreational and conservation issues in the New Zealand back country. Donations are also being sought from individuals, so anyone interested in contributing to this worthy cause is referred to FMC Bulletin 87 (Sept 86) for a donation form, or to FMC Bulletin 86 (Jun 86) for further details of the trust and its objectives.

#### **5/ For Sale**

PNTMC Club T shirts bearing the boot print insignia, mostly medium, one only small size. \$11 each. Phone Terry Crippen on 63588.

#### **6/ Accommodation Available**

3 Flatmates wanted for & 4 bedroom house in Palmerston North. For details phone Margaret Riordan on 61514.

#### **7/ Club Gear**

A new schedule of gear charges has just been announced. Rates are as below:

| ITEM        | RATE/DAY (\$) | CLUB MEMBER | OTHER CLUB MEMBER | NON-MEMBER |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|
| Tent or Fly |               | 2.00        | 3.00              | 4.00       |
| Billy       |               | 0.50        | 0.75              | 1.00       |
| Primus      |               | 1.00        | 1.50              | 2.00       |
| Ice Axe     |               | 1.00        | 1.50              | 2.00       |
| Crampons    |               | 1.00        | 1.50              | 2.00       |
| Snow Stakes |               | 0.50        | 0.75              | 1.00       |
| River Ropes |               | 1.00        | 1.50              | 2.00       |

Weekly rates equivalent to 5 days' hire  
 Party gear for Club trips is available free to trip leaders.

These rates have now been standardised with those of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club. Priority is given to PNTMC members for PNTMC gear, but members wanting to reserve gear for use MUST give the gear custodian good notice of their requirements. All members are welcome to use gear for either Club or private trips; but Club trips have priority if demand exceeds the gear available.

Contact Dave Barker on 78762 for details and reservations.

P.S. Note also that Massey Alpine Club has gear available for hire, with a rather different selection. Phone Dave Crawford for details (78762).

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## **TRIP REPORTS:**

### **29-31 August: Snow Caving on Ruapehu**

We drove through a steady snow shower up the Tukino Skifield access road. Tents were hurriedly pitched at the lower car park as people sought to get warm again.

Next morning dawned beautifully fine and white since there was an inch of fresh snow over the dark volcanic soil. Four of us set off for the boring road bash to the Tukino skifield where we had to wait while Trevor tried to con the skiers into selling him some snow goggles. A brilliantly fine week-end on Ruapehu without sunglasses would have resulted in snow blindness: a most distressing complaint. The slackers, Dave and Susan, had arrived by goat (skier type truck transport:) by the time Trevor had obtained some second-hand goggles.

After this it was a long hard climb in the heat of the day with heavy packs. Some 400 to 500 metres up the ridge above the skifield we were able to cross onto the Mangatoetoenui Glacier for lunch. From here another somewhat steeper slog of 300-400 metres brought us, exhausted, to the rim of the plateau under the peak of Te Heu Heu. Dave had made a similar speed on his skis and skins on the climb to the rest of us who were on foot. He now had a decided advantage across the plateau since the snow had become softer, with a crust through which we broke on every second or third step.

Dave located the snow caves he had helped to build the previous weekend with the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club (they have their uses!). They had climbed to the plateau from the Whakapapa skifield on the other side of the mountain. The entrances had been blocked by fresh snow and were identifiable by the piles of debris below (produced during the construction). After some digging the caves were reopened and proved to be quite spacious, dry and comfortable for the night. All cooking and drinking water had to be produced by melting snow.

Next morning it was bitterly cold outside the cave entrance until the sun appeared. While preparing the breakfast we could see another group doing the same at their tent at the base of the Dome.

The Tiki tour took us around the Dome to Pare Saddle and on around the Crater Lake. The high peak of Ruapehu (Tahurangi) was climbed by ascending to the rim of the crater, just above the Turoa Skifield, and up the rim to the top. The view was fantastic. The Kaimanawas and Ruahines (perhaps the Tararuas?) lay to the east and south, while Ngauruhoe, Tongariro and Lake Taupo could be seen to the north. Unfortunately time was in limited supply so we returned to the cave for a late lunch and to pack before heading for home.

The Team: Susan Cade, Dave Barker, Trevor Bissell, Glen Leonard, Sue Patterson, Ian Wilson.

### **12-13-14 September – Snowcraft III**

An evening instruction was held during the week before the course on glacier travel and crevasse extraction techniques. The course itself was based on the Kapuni Lodge on the slopes of Fanthams Peek, Mount Egmont (or Taranaki).

On the Saturday everyone traversed the slopes of Fanthams Peak towards the Kapuni Valley above the gorge. From here people roped up in pairs and belayed each other up over a snow gully leading to the Curtis Ridge. On attaining the ridge, somewhat late in the day, most pairs continued up the ridge unroped to a point from where they could descend to Fanthams Peak and descend to the Lodge. The remainder of us returned down the gully.

An early start was made on Sunday to climb to the top of the mountain. Crampons were donned at the hut and perfect cramponing snow was encountered from the little gully immediately behind the loo.

Four of us remained near Rangitoto Flat, between Fanthams and the summit cone, in order to conduct strength tests on snowstakes and ice screw anchors and to practice the crampon techniques designed for climbing steep slopes. After a couple of hours two of this group got summit-withdrawal shakes and also headed for the top.

Most of the descent was on hard snow as very little softening occurred during the day; as a result most people suffered some muscle strain in the legs, especially in the front of the thighs.

Participants: Dave Barker, Trevor Bissell, Mary Davies, Glen Leonard, Sue Patterson, Graham Peters, Roger Redmayne, Duane Thomas, Peter Wiles, Ian Wilson.

### **20-21 September – Waikamaka Hut**

Unfortunately we must have chosen the wettest week-end in the Hawkes Bay this year. Travel up the Waipawa River in flood was uninviting so a detour was made to Triplex Chalet and thence to Waipawa Hut by the new well-graded track. We watched Perry Hicks and fellow Rangitikei Tramping Club members head off towards Waikamaka Hut. We decided to let the rain ease before continuing, but somehow found ourselves in sleeping bags having brews. Mid-afternoon saw the return of most of the R.T.C. group looking very wet and cold after turning back just short of the saddle.

Sunday brought no respite so we retraced our steps, having much difficulty with the single crossing of the Waipawa River required. Not the most successful of trips, but great for catching up on sleep.

We were: John Barkla, Cheryl Peters, Roger Scott.

### **28 September – Alternative Route to Rangitoto Hut**

By the time we reached the Rangitoto car park it had stopped raining. The Whanahua Range was still enshrouded with thick cloud but the wind seemed to have died down. It seemed a reasonable gamble that the conditions would not be too unpleasant on the tops so we stuck to the route as planned.

The view of the farmland was soon lost as we ascended the ridge that leads directly from the car park up onto the range just south of Mangahua peak. The bush and subalpine scrub took on a fairy-tale appearance in the mist which limited visibility to about 50 metres. We donned extra clothing and parkas before emerging from the end of the track and the shelter of the scrub. The light rain and moderate wind were not too unpleasant for most of the climb up the snow grass covered slopes to the crest of the range. Odd stops were made to don extra clothing and nibble biscuits etc.

The wind over the crest was quite strong and the rain turned to sleet which stung the face. The last 100 metres of climb onto Mangahua became quite exhausting; we crouched in the grass on the lee of the summit for shelter as the tail-enders forced their way against the wind to the top. Fortunately the wind died down somewhat during the walk down the ridge to the hut; the fire was going and it was good to get the wet parkas and overtrousers off. Warmth and food soon erased any unpleasant memories and a much rejuvenated group wandered down the shorter track to the car park.

Party: Margaret Riordan, Leslie Haines, Catherine Craw, Christine Cheyne, Trish Bunny, Trevor Bissell.

### **12 October – Ruapae Falls, Tararua**

Whilst travelling through the drizzling rain to the road end behind Eketahuna we were wondering what the day would have in store for us. Bound to get wet, that's for sure! But it wasn't from the rain, which did ease off after a while. It was from clambering up, over, round and through all sorts of rocks, boulders and tree trunks up a side stream of the Mangatainoka, to Ruapae Falls. Quite spectacular they were, a drop of about 13 metres into a pool at the end of a gorge. They could even be viewed from behind after a scramble and wade around the edge of the pool, with the aid of an umbrella!

On the trip were: John Barkla, Marilyn Barnard, Nanette and Peter Clough (and a mutinous lot they were too!)

### **19 October – Coppermine Creek, Ruahines**

While Hawkes Bay was having its hail storm and Rangitoto Hut was being sleeted upon, eight of us had pleasant weather strolling into Coppermine Creek, leaving PN at the sensible hour of 9 am. Going in by the ridge to the north, dropping down to the river, we investigated the old copper mining activities up the northern tributary just upstream from the hut. Found one shaft, lots of old railway line and corrugated iron over a nice waterfall. Some fossicking around in the stream investigating the red, blue and green minerals occupied the rest of the time.

We were Doug Strachan, Ruth Knowles, Terry Crippen, Janet Baird, Christine Cheyne, Monica Cantwell, Catherine and Jim Fargray.

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COMING SOON - CHRISTMAS AT RANGI on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> December

DETAILS NEXT NEWSLETTER.