



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

January/February 1987

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

ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

John Barkla:	Tel. Home 65-844	Wk	89-109
Trevor Bissell:	73-543		74-129
Peter Clough	61-271		69-099
Tricia Eder	70-122		

ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE CAR PARK OUTSIDE FOODTOWN IN 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.

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

COMING EVENTS:

31 January – Ohau Gorge, Tararua

An easy walk into Ohau Shelter, followed by a walk and short swims down the scenic gorge.

Leader: Cheryl Peters tel 65581
Grade: Easy/Medium
Departs: 9 a.m. Saturday.

31 January – Barbecue and Muster

For the first club night of the year, something a little bit different. If the weather's fine, a barbecue on Tangimoana Beach is planned. But if it's blowing a gale or pouring with rain we will adjourn to the wool shed at Caernarvon, S.H.1, Rongotea. Assemble at Caernarvon at 6.30 p.m.. If no-one's there, head for Tangimoana Beach and follow your noses into the plumes of charcoal smoke!

For Directions, Contact: Philip Budding tel RON 780
For Transport, Contact: Tricia Eder PN 71785

This is a good opportunity to catch up with what others have been doing over the holiday period. Remember to bring something to eat (!) and drink (B.Y.O.). Energetic types should bring togs, frisbees, balls etc.

If you're going in your own car and have seats to spare, contact Tricia who will co-ordinate with those without wheels.

6-8 February – Tararua Main Range

A classic Tararua trip into the heart of the main range. The long weekend will put this trip within reach of the not-so-super fit.

Leader: Trevor Bissell tel 73543
 Grade: Fit
 Departs: 6.30 a.m. Friday

3 February (Tuesday) – Committee Meeting

Because of the long week-end, there's a change of day for this committee meeting. Otherwise the format is the same, and all members are welcome.

Time: 7.45 p.m.
 Venue: 28 Carroll Street, Palmerston North

8 February – Cycling Day Trip

Give the boots a rest and exercise some other muscles on an easy cycle ride up the Pohangina valley, for a picnic lunch. Bring togs and towel.

Leader: Sally Hewson tel 73543
 Grade: Easy
 Departs: 9 a.m. Sunday

Thursday 12 February – Club Night

For the first real club night of the year we're having another session of non-competitive games. We had a session one evening last year which most of those who took part found to be a bundle of fun. Just to be different, this time they will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

Time: 7.30 p.m.
 Venue: If dry: by the Chalet Car Park, Centennial Drive, P.N.
 If wet: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms,
 227 College Street, Palmerston North.
 If in doubt: Contact Philippa Somerville (64065)

14-15 February – Camp Week-end at Mangaweka Reserve

For a relaxing week-end by the waterside, join the club's camp at the Mangaweka Reserve, impressively situated on a bend in the Rangitikei River beneath its towering white cliffs. Bring li-locs; inner tubes, togs, fishing rods, canoes and anything else you need for making the most of this waterside area. Activities are up to you!

Leader: Philippa Somerville tel 64065
 Grade: Easy
 Departs: 8 a.m. Saturday

15 February – Kawhatau Valley, Ruahines

A day trip in the vicinity of the Hukurangi Range and some of the highest of the Ruahines tops. Some people may want to combine this with the camp at Mangaweka, which is not so far away.

Leader: Damien Eder tel 71785
 Grade: Medium
 Departs: 7 a.m. Sunday

21 February – Stanfield Hut, South-east Ruahines

Some easy river travel up the Tamaki valley with the opportunity to reach the leatherwood-covered tops.

Leader: Tricia Eder tel 71785
 Grade: Easy/Medium
 Departs: 7 a.m. Saturday

21-22 February – Central Ruahine Range

A long circuit taking in the Oroua River, Longview Hut, Pohangina River and Ngamoko Range. A good mixture of tops and valley travel.

Leader: Wayne Baxter tel 62919
 Grade: Fit
 Departs: 6.30 p.m. Friday

Thursday 26 February – Club Night!

Back to our usual format and venue for this club night. Tonight's meeting will feature John Barkla's slides of his visit to the Chatham Islands over the New Year period, accompanying Dave Barker, ostensibly for scientific studies. Find out what they really did, tonight!

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

28 February-1 March – Kaimanawa Range

Superb tramping and camping country in the lower Waipakihi valley. This is a chance to explore a new area, the Kaimanawa's leatherwood-free tops.

Leader: Urs Schupbach tel 80245
 Grade: Medium
 Departs: 6.30 p.m. Friday

1 March – Waitewaewae Hut, Tararua

A chance to explore another of the tracks in from Otaki Forks, partly following the route of an old bush tramway.

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

7-8 March – Abort-a-Contorta, Tongariro National Park

The call is going out once again for volunteers to give a little of their time to help rid the national park of the troublesome weed, Pinus contorta. As in previous years, the park authorities pay the travel costs of all who come out, so all we need from you is a little energy and enthusiasm to see the park preserved for the native vegetation. Take gear, food etc as you would for a tramp. Stop pining for the hills – get out and pull them out!

Leader: Peter Clough tel 61271
 Grade: All
 Departs: 6.30 p.m. Friday

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NOTICES:

1/ New Members

We welcome to our club:

Marilyn Barnard,
 c/- Quality Inn,
 Fitzherbert Avenue,
 Palmerston North.
 Tel 65844

Christine Cheyne,
 17 Waterloo Crescent,
 Palmerston North.
 Tel 78552

Helen Perry,
 24 Newhaven Place,
 Palmerston North.
 Tel 79768

2/ Changes of Address:

Leslie Haines,
 34 Kawiti Avenue,
 Port England,
 Auckland 6.
 Tel 577-398

Margaret Riordan,
 54 Burns Avenue,
 Palmerston North.
 Tel 71806

3/ Thanks for Christmas Dinner arrangements are due to Chris Morton, who provided the music, and Nanette Clough, who made the necessary arrangements for the venue, food and so on. An excellent night's entertainment for all those who went.

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TRIP REPORTS:

11-12 October – Cycling to Makuri

Awoke at 6 a.m. Saturday morning to not-so-occasional heavy showers, expecting the phone to go any minute as wimps decided to pike. No such Luck! A violent thunderstorm with heavy rain struck as we loaded the bikes onto the trailer, but we had to go because Trevor had set off at 7 a.m. and we were to meet him in Pahiatua. A depressed drive in the rain followed until Pahiatua was reached and the rain eased. Found Trevor resembling a drowned Aqualung lurking in a bus shelter, so we hit the road, met a few showers past Ngaturi then fine weather as we headed through Makuri Gorge, up Pori Road and over to Tiraumea. At the main East Coast Road loaded the cycles back on the trailer for the trip to the top of Rimu Road. Then mounted for a quick blast down into Makuri and a further 11 km up the valley

to the Wilsons' shearers' quarters for the night. The evening produced Gordon Blue food and Trivial Pursuits. After a previous best-forgotten off-road cycling epic on the Makairo Track, the team opted-out of this return route and headed back down the valley to the tar macadam of Makuri Gorge. After ice creams in Pahiatua it was off again over the Pahiatua Track, but some had had enough at the bottom of the track and some had had enough at the top. Some didn't know when they had had enough and cycled all the way through the pouring rain!

The cycling sextet were: Trevor Bissell, Terry Crippen, Trish Eder, Sally Hewson, Cheryl and Graham Peters.

28-30 November – Dundas Ridge, Tararuas

Drizzling rain came and went during the walk along the sidle track above the lower Ohau Gorge. Our first view of the river in the failing light was not pretty, since it was high, swift and discoloured. We settled down for the night in the Ohau Shelter having resigned ourselves to the possibility that we might have to use the Gable End Ridge instead of the river itself. We might also have to abandon the traverse northwards along Dundas Ridge if the rivers remained high since our return lay in part along the Mangahao River!

Next morning dawned fine and the river was clear. It was also reasonably low and the upper gorge provided some interesting boulder hopping but no real problems. We soon reached the South Ohau Hut which showed the benefit of much restoration work. No longer the rustic hut of rough-cut slabs, the inside walls are now lined with plywood. A covered veranda adorns the front of the building and the concrete floor looks rather clean.

The Yeates track ascended the steep spur behind the hut but soon gave way to easy travel to the Te Matawai Hut. This is a large L-shaped building with roofs which slope in one direction only on each branch of the L. It appears more like a ski lodge than a forest park hut, but provided a nice spot for an early lunch.

The long steady climb up to Pukematawai offered simultaneous views into the Otaki, Ohau and Mangahao catchments. Mist descended onto Pukematawai as we climbed its summit, but it lifted and fell periodically, giving us views over much of the northern Tararuas. From Arete, at 1500 metres, we descended to the tall, thin two-man hut on the Arete Bench above Arete Stream. Partial periodic clearances allowed a mental impression of the Twins and Bannister Peaks to be pieced together. We opted to spend the remainder of the evening and night here rather than press on to Avalanche Flats Hut 6 kilometres away.

It was a very windy night but with very little rain; but signs of a light hail shower in the morning. The mist was very low so we used the compass and map on the 3 kilometre walk along the Dundas Ridge. A piece of timber marked the turn off onto Triangle Spur, which descended remarkably steeply. We dropped out of the mist and saw it clear from the ridge tops soon after. After climbing Triangle Knob we could see Te Matawai Hut and the Girdlestone Saddle which we would use later to cross from the Mangahao to the Ohau. The track in the bush was very indistinct in parts and Wayne's route-finding ability proved to be very useful.

The Avalanche Flat Hut is rather shabby but could provide good shelter. The top bunk is complete but the lower one has a number of large holes! After an early lunch here we wandered up the Mangahao River, which was very low, and up the short gentle side-stream which leads to Girdlestone Saddle, thence on the track down the long steep drop to the stream on the other side. We missed the sidle track around the Dowling Falls further downstream and had to back-track and climb onto it, inadvertently becoming separated into two groups in the process. We reunited some time later at South Ohau Hut. All that then remained was the 2 hour slog down river to the Shelter and hour's walk along the sidle track to the farmland, and the end of an 11½ hour day.

The Team: James Brown, Wayne Baxter, Bruce Ward and Trevor Bissell.

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