



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

February/March 1987

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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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:

Thursday 26 February – 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 to assist his scientific studies. Find out what they really did, tonight!

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

28 February – 1 March – Kaimanawa Range

A chance to explore some superb tramping and camping country in the lower Waipakihi valley, and sample the delights of some leatherwood-free tops.

Leader: Urs Schupbach tel 80245
Grade: Medium
Departs: 6.30 pm Friday

1 March - Waitewaewae Hut, Tararua

This trip will partly follow the route of an old bush tramway from Otaki Forks towards Waitewaewae Hut. Come see for yourself what's left behind.

Leader: Peter Clough tel 61211
Grade: Medium
Departs: 7.30 am Sunday

27 February – 1 March – Punawaitai Camp – See Notices below**5 March – Committee Meeting**

This will be the last meeting for the current committee before this year's A.G.M.. All club members are welcome to attend and see how the club works.

Time: 7.45 pm
Venue: 51 Fairs Road, Palmerston North.

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

The call is out once again for volunteers to give a little of their time and energy to help rid the national park of the troublesome weed, Pinus contorta. Take gear, food etc. as you would for a tramp, plus a pair of gardening gloves if you have some. Park authorities pay the travel costs of all who come out, so all we need from you is a little enthusiasm to see the park preserved for the native vegetation. This is not only a worthwhile exercise but can also be a lot of fun, so come and pull pines with us!

Leader: Peter Clough tel 61271
Grade: Medium-Fit-Easy-All
Departs: 6.30 pm Friday

12 March, Thursday – Club Night

Tonight we'll be seeing an illustrated account of the trip made recently by Peter Wiles and Urs Schupbach in the Arrowsmith Range. The trip report is in this letter, so once you've read it you can see the pictures as well.

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

14-15 March - Middle Stream/Smiths Stream, Ruahines

This part of the eastern Ruahines is seldom visited by members of the club but Dave has planned a varied and flexible route to cater for Huey's moods.

Leader: Dave Barker tel 78762
Grade: Medium/Fit
Departs: 6 pm Friday

15 March - Eastern Tararuas Day Trip

An enjoyable forest walk along a new high standard track following part of an (other) old tram line, between the Mikimiki and Kiuwhakapapa road ends.

Leader: John Barkla tel 65844
Grade: Easy
Departs: 8 am Sunday

21-22 March – Dundas Ridge, Tararuas

Leatherwood basl'ers will need to queue for this round trip from the Mangahao Dam.

Leader: Trevor Bissell tel 73543
Grade: Fit
Departs: Saturday 6 am

22 March – Mangahao Day Trip, Tararuas

Boulder hopping stream travel in Dick and Baber Creeks, with a low bush saddle between.

Leader: Urs Schupbach tel 80245
Grade: Medium
Departs: 7 am Sunday

Thursday 26 March – Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the A.G.M. of the P.N.T.M.C. will be held on Thursday 26 March 1987, commencing at 7.45 pm in the Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

Nominations for the positions of Patron, President, Vice-President, Treasurer Secretary, Auditor and not less than five committee members are required and must be in the hands of the Secretary before the commencement of the meeting. A nomination form is provided in this newsletter, and others are obtainable from the Secretary.'

Any financial member may be nominated. Anyone contemplating standing for the committee should find out more of what it entails from any current committee member.

28-29 March – Bushcraft

Ever wondered how to cook over an open fire, safely cross rivers and navigate through untracked forest? These and many more secrets will be revealed this week-end, based on a fly camp in the Oroua River. Plenty of laughs too!

Bushcraft Leader: John Barkla tel 65844
Grade: All
Departs: 7 am Saturday

20 March – Walkway Working Bee

Once again volunteers are sought to help with some track construction on the new walkway up the Pohangina Valley. Gear etc as for Pinus contorta.

Contact: Peter Clough tel 61271
Grade: All
Departs: 9 am Saturday Returns 4 pm Saturday. Tools provided.

COMING TRIPS:

17-20 April – Easter Week-end

It is likely the club will be running a trip in conjunction with the Marlborough Tramping Club to either the Raglan Range or the Bounds Range. If you are interested in a medium/fit trip to this part of the South Island please contact Trevor Bissell on 73543. Early notification is essential so that ferry bookings and transport can be arranged.

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NOTICES:

1/ Change of Address: John Barkla Margaret Riordan,
75A Geraldine Crescent, 99 Fitzroy Street,
Palmerston North. Palmerston North.
Tel 65844

2/ Many Thanks to Tricia Eder for organising the food and co-ordinating the packhorses for Christmas at Rangī last year.

3/ **Manawatu Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied Club** has invited members of PNTMC and their families to join them at their camp being held at Punawaitai Sheep Station, near Waipawa, for the week-end 27 February to 1 March.

Punawaitai is near Pourere Beach which has lovely firm sand, easy bush walks and fishing near by. Accommodation is in the shearing quarters, which has 20 bunks and ample space for tents. Those attending have the use of facilities at the homestead, which include a tennis court, swimming pool, croquet lawn and a barbecue which will be used for Saturday tea time. The cost of attending is approximately \$30 per person, which includes accommodation on Friday and Saturday nights, and all meals from Friday supper to Sunday lunch. (It does not include transport costs).

The Manawatu P.H.A.B. Club is a social club which seeks to encourage integration and contact between physically handicapped and able bodied people in the community. PNTMC members have been to their camps in previous years and enjoyed it. Contact Sheena Taylor at work (72119) or home (76665) if interested in going or .for further information.

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P.N.T.M.C. NOMINATION FORM

I, (print name) HEREBY ACCEPT
NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT/VICE-PRESIDENT/TREASURER/SECRETARY/COMMITTEE
MEMBER (delete those not applicable).

Signature Proposed by
Seconded by.....

Note: Nominee, proposer and seconder must all be club members.

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TRIP REPORTS:**2-9 January – Arrowsmith Range**

After some anxious moments trying to find each other at Christchurch airport, we were soon bowling across the plains towards Mount Somers. A few miles past Lake Heron we reached the Cameron Valley and shortly after (about 3pm) it was time to put the body into gear and the mind into neutral for the 4½ hour slog up to Cameron Hut. The plan next day was to climb 700 m to cross Peg Col (1950 m) and find a good campsite in the upper part of Jagged Stream, without losing too much height. By lunchtime, a tentative prospect was still some time and effort further on. However, Peter (S) and Werner were to change all that when they discovered a possible bivvy rock near the Gridiron Stream. After lunch we left our gear and investigated. Only at close range (less than 10 m) did the rock show any sign of accommodation potential. (It had not been used before). While there were certain engineering difficulties to be worked on, we decided that this was the spot and that the tent could be relegated to pack ballast for the trip.

To make the lower chamber fully usable 3 or 4 rocks weighing 2-300 kg each had to be freed, moved to the door, lifted out and dragged upwards to the narrow entrance. This would have been easily accomplished had there been a handy rock to fasten the rope to for setting up a Z-pulley of untold mechanical advantage. However, we had neither a suitable rock nor pulleys, only a collection of slings and carabiners. As luck had it, the only (2) people we saw in the valley in 5 days descended from a climb past the bivvy and before they were aware of it they had been "roped in". By evening, there was very good accommodation for at least four people.

Next morning we headed up through the rather crevassed Gridiron Glacier, sidled across the top of Assault Glacier to Reischek Col (2400 m) and made a short climb from there (100 m) to the ? summit of one of the Reischek Spires. From there we headed across the Reischek neve to Lawrence Col for lunch, then wandered up the north ridge of Red Peak to a point where a deep notch barred progress. Although we knew this was likely, it was nevertheless frustrating to be little more than 100 m from this fine peak. However, the views were impressive enough.

Next day we headed up the easy and direct snow slopes to Lawrence Peak (2450 m), reaching the summit shortly after 8 am. This seemed a bit early to be contemplating descent! Instead we spent a few hours scrambling along the ridge to the start of the north ridge of Jagged Peak. After an early lunch, the long snow slope of the Jagged Glacier gave us a round trip back to base.

We decided next day to tackle Jagged Peak (2720 m) via the east ridge from Jagged Col. We were a few metres from the snow slopes by the time it was light, and had reached Jagged Col (2350 m) by about 7 am. This left us lots of time to tackle the 400 m ridge and we had got most of the height gain finished with before the sun wilted us. The ridge was mostly loose or doubtful rock with some snow sections mixed in. Some of the obstacles could be by-passed but the crux was the last and largest tower on the ridge which required climbing a steep 20 m vertical groove. This was abseiled on the return. The summit gave exceptionally good views and a spot to have lunch. The descent required at least as much care as the ascent. Once back at Jagged Col the stops could be pulled out again. Glissading roped up may not be a technique in the book, but it worked well as long as the team was more or less co-ordinated.

We decided to make the next day easy by returning to the Cameron Hut by Peg Col. After lunch at the Hut, the afternoon was spent in or around the tarn on the other side of the river. An early start was made the following day, this time for Mount Arrowsmith (excluding PW). The standard route seems to have changed in recent years. The route now used is via East Horn, where ideas of climbing the east ridge of Arrowsmith (2780m) were abandoned as too time consuming. Instead, we descended 2-300 metres onto the South Cameron Glacier and followed the standard couloir route. Heat was the main problem. After lunch on the summit, the descent was made by the same route.

Fourteen hours of sun each day was getting to be rather repetitious, so it was with some relief that the next day was foggy. This was perfect for the walk out down valley and we had just reached the car by the time the sun had started to break through again.

Party was: Urs and Peter Schupbach, Werner Held, Peter Wiles.

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