



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

April/May 1987

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|------|--------|
| Membership Enquiries: | Tricia Eder | Tel. | 70-122 |
| Secretary: | Trevor Bissell | | 73-543 |
| Gear Custodian: | Dave Barker | | 78-762 |
| Newsletter Editor: | Peter Clough | | 61-271 |

ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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|-----------------|------------------|----|--------|
| John Barkla: | Tel. Home 65-844 | Wk | 89-003 |
| Trevor Bissell: | 73-543 | | 74-129 |
| Peter Clough | 61-271 | | 69-099 |
| Tricia Eder | 70-122 | | 79-946 |

ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE FOODTOWN CAR PARK IN FERGUSON STREET. IF YOU WANT TO GO ON A TRIP, PLEASE 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 should be able to give an estimate in advance.

COMING EVENTS:

Thursday 30 April – Club Night

Tonight Linda and Darryl Rowan, recently returned from the USA, will give a talk entitled "Azalias, Alligators and Appalachians - The Georgian Way". Come find out for yourselves what connections lie behind this intriguing, alliterative title.

At: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College St., Palm. North.
Time: 7.45 p.m.

Sunday 3 May – Tararua Two-Step

This day trip into the eastern Tararuas may take a bit more than a couple of steps, but it should prove an interesting trip with the evocatively named Roaring Stag Lodge as its destination. This is close to the scene of the recent search and rescue so - no dogs, please:

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

Thursday 7 May – Committee Meeting

The second meeting of the new committee, the first after the allocation of the portfolios to the members. As always, non-committee members are very welcome to attend, to contribute ideas and see how the Club is run.

Time: 7.45 p.m.

Venue: 30 Bourke Street, Palmerston North.

Saturday 9 May - Kahuterawa Road to Scotts Road

A pleasant day trip in native bush just outside the city, ideal for spotting orchids and taking a leisurely picnic along the way. A great way to start the holidays.

Leader: Tricia Eder tel 70122
Grade: Easy
Departs: Saturday 8 a.m.

Thursday 14 May – Club Night

Tonight Cheryl and Graham Peters will give an illustrated talk on their South Island trip in February this year, the principal purpose of which was a circumnavigation of Mount Aspiring.

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

16-17 May – Howletts Hut, Eastern Ruahines

A chance to visit some prime real estate in the Ruahines, great views and good exercise, in the company of the Club's well-known Ruahine guide.

Leader: Peter Wiles tel 86894
Grade: Medium
Departs: Saturday 7 a.m.

23-24 May - Oaonui Hut - Egmont National Park

There's scope here for either easy or medium trips to Oaonui Hut (the new one) via Lake Dive track, Brames Falls track, or simply up the Ihaia track. This is a gorgeous part of the Park which doesn't receive such a thrashing from visitors as the more popular northern side.

Leader: Philippa Somerville
Grade: Easy/Medium
Departs: Friday 6 p.m.

Thursday 28 May – Club Night – Annual Photographic Contest

Tonight is one of the highlights of the Club's social calendar, when all budding photographers pullout their best efforts from the past year's tramping shots for the annual photographic contest. This year the contest will be judged by John Cleland, and each contestant is restricted to three entries in any one of the classes below. There will be three sections in the contest:

1/ colour slides
2/ colour prints
3/ monochrome prints

Within each of these will be three classes:

- a) landscape
- b) natural history
- c) topical (action, humour etc)

ALL MEMBERS ARE VERY WELCOME To ENTER, subject only to the rule that photos must not previously have been entered in any PNTMC competition. Even those without photos will learn a lot as John analyses the strong points and weak points in this year's offerings.

Time: 7.4.5 p.m. (Those entering photos, please be early)
Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College St, P.N.

30-31 May – Western Ruahines

A medium - fit trip on the Hikurangi Range on the Western Ruahines, in the vicinity of Purity Hut and Pouangaki Hut.. Come prepared for plenty of travel along the tops, and find out what Wooden Peg and Iron Peg are all about.

Leader: Trevor Bissell tel 73543
Grade: Medium/Fit
Departs: Friday 6 p.m.

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FUTURE TRIPS:

Queen's Birthday Week-end - 6-8 June – North East Ruahines

Take a walk on the wild side to places you've probably never heard of before in the northern-most end of the Ruahines – Hollowback Ridge, Herricks Hut, Dead Dog Hut, No Man's Hut and, of course, Ohawai. Where? Come find out for yourself!

Leader: Daryl Rowan tel 64655
 Grade: Medium
 Departs: Friday 6 p.m.

13-14 June - Ketetahi Hot Springs, Tongariro National Park

Select the exercise of your choice before relaxing in the hot pools at Ketetahi Hut on the northern side of Mount Tongariro. An easy trip will come and go via Ketetahi track and a medium trip will come in via the Mangatepopo Road and cross Tongariro from the south. Great fun assured!

Leaders: Terry Crippen (Easy trip) tel 63588
 Cheryl Peters (Medium trip) tel 65581
 Departs: To be arranged (SEE NEXT NEWSLETTER)

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FUTURE EVENTS:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| June | Midwinter at Rangī |
| July | - |
| August | Snowcraft Courses: Introductory, Basic? Advanced |
| September | Snow weekend at Ruapehu: skiing, climbing, tramping, playing in the snow! |

LOOK for details of all this and more in future Newsletters.

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NOTICES:**1/ SUBSCRIPTIONS**

ALL MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1987/88 ARE NOW DUE AND MAY BE PAID TO THE TREASURER AT THE NEXT CLUB NIGHT.

Subscription rates which were set at the A.G.M. last March are unchanged from the previous year (despite the government's GST and 18% inflation!).

They are: Senior \$16.00
 Junior \$8.00 (applies to those of school age only)
 Family \$20.00

2/ COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Portfolios have been assigned to the members of the new committee, as outlined in the Compendium at the back of this newsletter. Keep this list by the phone or somewhere handy, and approach the appropriate committee member if you have any ideas or matters of concern about the Club's activities. A Club's committee is supposed to reflect the wishes of its Club members, not vice versa!

3/ CHANGE OF ADDRESS

| | |
|--|---|
| Damienne Eder, 146A Russell Street, Palmerston North. Tel 71785 | Catharine Farquhar, 531 Hammericks Road, Blenheim. Tel 82317 |
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TRIP REPORTS:**4-5 April Ruahine Circuit**

We left Palmerston North at 7 a.m. on Saturday, a beautiful sunny morning, and headed for the only area of hills under cloud! Walking at 8.30, we left the Oroua River valley just before Heritage Lodge and headed up the ridge track to Tunupo. We were there by lunchtime, but decided to head along the tops to find some shelter before eating, with good

views over the Hawkes Bay. After lunch we carried along the tops, spending a bit of time at the trig overlooking the Pohangina saddle, and making bets on how long we'd take to reach Long View Hut. We shared that hut for the night with a couple of hunters. (Yes - but who won the bet?)

Next morning was drizzly but it eased as we left and retraced our steps to the top of the Ngamoko Range. It was windy on the eastern side, but by the time we reached the tops it was dead calm. Some low cloud made a little care in route finding advantageous as we made our way through the leatherwood maze between the tussock and the bush. We made it to Iron Gates Hut for lunch, finding it full of hunters who, told us they'd escaped from Triangle Hut which was even fuller of hunters! Had lunch there all the same, before wandering back down the Oroua, sometimes in the river, sometimes on the wet weather track, just ahead of the rain that followed us down the valley.

The team was: Jenny Madgewick, Nick Johnston, Cheryl and Graham Peters.

5 April Maharahara Crossing, Ruahines

We arrived at the Opawe road end at about 9.30 a.m. The cars dropped us off, and we walked across farmland to Opawe Hut. From the hut we tramped through some bush with some steep bits en route. Two hours later we reached the leatherwood and had lunch on the summit of Maharahara (1095 metres). After lunch we walked along the ridge and, after some time, the weather broke and it started to rain. Eventually we reached the bush and in some places we were walking down a tiny creek rather than a track. At about 4.30, to my relief, we reached the stream at last. After walking along and through the stream, everyone reached a four wheel drive track and arrived at the cars. We arrived back at Palmerston at about 5.30.

The party was, Chris Saunders, Chris Morton, Alasdair, Tracy, Dean, Ben, Monica, Jenny, Niko.

Those on the eastern side were: Damienne, Cathy Morton.

Report by Roderick Saunders.

(Nice one Roderick - Keep those trip reports rolling in!)

12 April Mangaone Walkway

After a week of dismal wet weather, eight of us left Palmerston North on a bright and sunny Sunday to walk the Mangaone Walkway in the foothills of the Tararuas behind Otaki and Waikanae. Approaching from the Mangaone North Road end, we started walking around 9.30, initially up a vehicle track through bush and farmland. Eventually, after an easily graded climb, we reached a low saddle between the Mangaone and Waikanae river catchments, and descended into the grassy Te Horo clearing. After a few obligatory stream crossings, which apart from providing us with wet feet also proved excellent practice for checking our position on the map, we entered the bush of the Kaitawa Scenic Reserve, reaching the car park at the southern end of the walkway after some 2½ hours walking from the start. We then returned the way we came, stopping off for lunch in a sunny clearing in the reserve, and then completing the return trip in slightly less time than the outward leg. A very pleasant little amble, seen in perfect conditions, and also offering scope for jogging, for those so inclined.

We were: Christine Cheyne, Peter Clough, Gayle Hogan, Cathy Morton, Liz Morrison, Julie Plummer, David Woods, Dorothy.

P.S. Leaflets on the Mangaone Track and other Wellington District Walkways are available on request from Peter Clough.

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P.N.T.M.C MEMBERS' COMPENDIUM (1987)

CLUB COMMITTEE

Following the A.G.M., the following people form the Club Committee this year.

| <u>Position</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Telephone</u> | <u>Other Responsibilities</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Patron/Auditor | Lawson Pither | 73033 | |
| President | Linda Rowan | 64655 | Trips Convenor |
| Vice President | John Barkla | 65\$44 | Conservation Officer |
| Treasurer | Peter Wiles | 86894 | Newsletter Printer |
| Secretary | Trevor Bissell | 73543 | |

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|--------------------|----------------|-------|--|
| Committee Members: | Nanette Clough | 61271 | Social Convenor (Club nights) |
| | Peter Clough | 61271 | Newsletter Editor |
| | Trish Eder | 70122 | Membership Enquiries, Social |
| | Sally Hewson | 73543 | Membership Secretary, Newsletter Distribution |
| | Cheryl Peters | 65581 | Publicity Officer, Social |
| | Urs Schupbac | 80245 | Trips Convenor |

Any member with ideas for things the Club should do this year, either in its trips or social programme, is urged to contact a committee member.

SEARCH AND RESCUE (S.A.R.)

The Club maintains a list of members willing to be called out on search and rescue operations, like the one at the beginning of March in the Eastern Tararuas. This list contains details of members' availability, contact numbers, and experience they may have had on previous S.A.R. exercises and special skills they may have (e.g. snowcraft, caving, climbing etc).

Over the next few Club nights this list will be on display for updating, and members are encouraged to check the details it contains and make alterations where appropriate. It is important that the information contained on the list should be as accurate and as up-to-date as possible, so that in the event of a call-out the most suitable members for a particular search can be found.

Search teams are supposed, to be capable of being in the bush on a search for up to four days. Since some employers are more restrictive on such absence than others, the list has three grades of availability:

First call out: Available for four days at any time

Second call out: Available for four days if need be

Third call out: Back up. Primarily available out of working hours

Anybody with any queries about the Club's S.A.R. system and how it works should contact the SA.R. delegates, Philip Budding (Ron 780) or Linda Rowan (PN 64655).

Dealing with Helicopters

Recent incidents in the use of helicopters on searches have prompted the issuing of the following guidelines by Sgt Bob Vernon, SAR Co-ordinator.

- 1 Watch the pilot for directions and follow his instructions: never rush in before the pilot or crewman has indicated it is ready. If the aircraft is hovering or resting on only one skid, balance is critical. Wait for the crew's signal.
- 2 Approach and leave the helicopter from the front: The tail rotor is lethal and virtually invisible. And the pilot can't see you at the back.
- 3 On a slope, approach and leave from the downhill side: The rotor is closer to the ground on the uphill side, so approach from the downside. Similarly, stay clear when the aircraft motors are being started, since rotors dip at this time.
- 4 If blinded by dust, crouch down and wait: Wait until the dust settles and you can a) see what's happening, and b) establish eye contact with the pilot.
- 5 When getting onto a hovering helicopter move in a smooth unhurried manner: Weight transference causes the aircraft to tilt, for which the pilot has to compensate. As soon as you can, get inside the cabin and seated. Go one at a time. The pilot may take off and re-settle the aircraft before picking the next one up, but he will not leave the others behind so don't panic. Don't step on the toe of the skid (the ski-like rail on which the craft lands), or stay hanging out on the skid, but move into the centre of the aircraft smoothly.

Most of this is just common sense. Helicopters need to be treated with respect.

Remember: DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD, USE IT INSTEAD !

Other points to consider include:

- 6 A helicopter needs plenty of airspace to get down and up. Bear this in mind when selecting a landing site and, if necessary, remove any undergrowth that may impede the tail rotor.
- 7 Indicate the wind direction to the pilot by either setting up a small smoke device, or by standing with your back to the wind with hands outstretched in front of you.
- 8 Carry packs, ice axes etc below waist level when moving to, or from, the aircraft.

9 Don't have loose fitting hats, clothing or other objects on the ground which could be sucked into the rotors or damage the aircraft. Karrimats should be stowed inside packs. Since fire is a danger in the event of a crash landing, it is wise to wear woollen clothing.

10 If winching is in progress, wait until the winch hook has touched the ground before touching the hook. This allows static to be discharged to earth rather than through you!

GEAR FOR TRAMPS

We all face a dilemma when going on tramps: how much do we need to be comfortable and how little do we want to carry. As some people on our recent tramps have found out, travelling light can become heavy going if the weather turns foul. Below is a suggested list of what we need to carry, depending on trip type.

TRAMPING CHECK-LIST (or what not to forget next time)

ALL TRIPS:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Boots | Bush-shirt/Jersey | *First aid kit | Glucose sweets |
| Socks | Shorts | *Water bottle | Insect repellent |
| Overtrowsers | Longjohns | Tissue paper | Camera |
| Parka | Spare jersey(s) | Chocolate/Scroggin | Torch |
| Balaclava/Hat | *Map | Lunch | |
| Mittens | *Compass | Pack | |

OVERNIGHT TRIPS - ADD to the above list:

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sleeping bag | Plate/Bowl/Mug | Matches (Waterproof) |
| Sleeping bag cover | Knife/fork/spoon | Toothbrush/toiletries + towel |
| Karrimat/Groundsheet | *Stove + fuel | Spare clothing/togs etc |
| Clock/Watch | *Billies | Book (to read), *cards etc. |

HIGH LEVEL/SNOW TRIPS - ADD to above lists:

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------------|--|
| Ice axe | Gaiters | Snow/Sun cream | Rope |
| Crampons | Overmitts | Sun glasses | Specialist gear (see Mountaincraft Manual) |

FOOD – could include:

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Muesli/Porridge | *Tea/Coffee/Milo | Cheese | Pre-prepared stew |
| Bread/Crackers | *Milk powder | Salami/pate | Bacon/sausages |
| Margarine/Butter | *Sugar | Biscuits | Pasta/rice |
| Jam/Honey/Marmite | *Soft drink powder | Fruit | Dehydrated foods |

* denotes shared items

NOTE: Cold and wet are the main enemies in the hills, and wool takes a lot of beating as an insulated material. Wet wool is warm! Synthetic fibre-pile and polypropylene are good substitutes with the advantage of drying more quickly. Cotton, polyester and acrylic garments lose heat when wet and are not recommended. At least three layers of wool or equivalent clothing are advisable on all trips at any time of year – preferably more in winter.

CLUB GEAR – Contact Dave Barker on 78762 for details and reservations

The following gear is available for the use of Club members. We have reciprocal arrangements with other clubs so that we can use their gear if ours is insufficient. Priority will be given to PNTMC members for the use of PNTMC gear, and to club trips over private trips, but notice must be given in advance of requirements. Ordering gear the day before a trip guarantees nothing!

| ITEM | RATE/DAY (\$) to PNTMC | | AFFILIATED CLUBS | NON MEMBERS |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------|------------------|-------------|
| | EACH ITEM | MEMBER | | |
| Tent or Flysheet | | 2.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 |
| Primus/Ice axe/Crampons/Ropes | | 1.00 | 1.50 | 2.00 |
| Billy/Snow stake | | 0.50 | 0.75 | 1.00 |

Weekly rates are equivalent to 5 days' hire each item

Group gear for Club trips is issued free to trip leaders

PRESIDENTS REPORT 1986/87

PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING & MOUNTANEERING CLUB

It is with pleasure that I submit the following report. The 1986/87 year has seen the Club active each weekend with weekend and day trips to the Ruahines, Tararuas, Kaimanawas, Kawekas, Kaikouras and Ruapehu for the Snowcrafts and weekends of climbing. A Christmas trip was run this year with good support. A number of private trips were undertaken by Club members to locations in the South Island, (including the Chatham Islands some 500 miles east of New Zealand).

It was pleasing to see the numbers participating in work parties to Tongariro National Park to help with the eradication of Pinus Contorta and also those who helped with the walkways work parties.

Thanks very much to the people that turned out for the two Search and Rescues (one in the Tararuas and one in the Ruahines), at such short notice. An active involvement is required by all Club members for search and rescue so that we can always turn out teams at a moment's notice. Having had these two searches it will hopefully stimulate more interest within Club members to carry on being involved with Search and Rescue.

Membership has remained fairly stable at about 64 members. A lot of effort was put into trying to recruit junior members, but it appears there was little response from schools etc, even with the offer of three free memberships, to try and build up junior numbers.

The annual debate with Massey Alpine Club once again saw the P.N.T.M.C. retain the coveted Boot, mainly due to the masterful interjections of P.N.T.M.C. and the confusion of the Massey side as to who they were debating for.

Socially a number of events have been organised and have all gone over exceptionally well. Thanks to organisers and participants for their efforts to make those occasions memorable.

And finally, thanks very much to the committee members that are standing down, for their time and efforts, and all the best for the incoming committee for the coming year.

Philip Budding
President 1986/87