



PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

May/June 1987

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ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE FOODTOWN CAR PARK IN FERGUSSON 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 28 May – Club Night – Annual Photographic Contest

All members are welcome to enter photos in this year's contest, the rules of which are set out below. The entries will be judged by John Cleland, and even those without photos will learn a lot as John analyses the good points and the not-so-good in this year's offerings.

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)

Each contestant is restricted to three entries in each of the classes.

Photos must not previously have been entered in any PNTMC competition.

Time:	7.45 p.m. (Those entering photos, please be early)
Venue:	Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, Palm Nth.

29 May – 1 June – Queen’s Birthday Week-End: North East Ruahines

Take a walk on the wild side of the Ruahines to Hollowback Ridge, Dead Dog Hut and No Man's Hut. Sounds interesting? Then come see for yourself!

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

Thursday 4 June – Committee Meeting

All members are very welcome to attend.

Time: 7.47
 Place: 10 Union Street, Palmerston North

5-7 June – Western Ruahines

Plenty of tops travel on this trip to the Hikurappi Range, western Ruahines, in the vicinity of Purity Hut, Pourangaki Hut and the odd-named Iron Peg.

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

Thursday 11 June – Club Night

Tonight Julie Plummer will shed some light on outdoor activities across the Tasman in a talk entitled: "Bushwalking in Australia - is it just deserts?"

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

13-14 June – Ketetahi Springs, Tongariro National Park

A choice of two trips to these hot springs: either easy, coming and going via the Ketetahi track; or medium, from Mangatepopo via Tongariro. Fun assured.

Leader: (Easy trip): Terry Crippen tel 63588
 Leader: (Medium): To be arranged. Contact Linda Rowan 64655
 Departs: Saturday 6 a.m.

20-21 June – Midwinter at Rangī

A social high point for the club in every sense, with good food, good company and ...good weather? A variety of long and short trips to the hut will be run. Watch the notice board on Club Night for further details.*

Organiser: Linda Rowan tel 64655
 Grades: Easy - Medium - Indulgent
 Departs: Various times

*Perhaps Bush T.C. will plan a trip to Rangī that week-end.

Thursday 25 June – Club Night

Trevor Bissell will give an illustrated talk on the Club's last Christmas trip, from Lewis Pass to Lake Rotoroa in the Nelson Lakes National Park.

Time: 7.45 p.m.
 Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 221 College St, P.N.

27-28 June – Smith Stream, Mid-Ruahines

A mix of interesting country lies behind the Hineruia Road end, with a chance to climb high onto Rangioteatua. Ice axes will be carried in case of snow.

Leader: John Barkla tel 65844
 Grade: Medium Departs: Saturday 7 a.m.

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FUTURE TRIPS (DETAILS TO COME)

11-12 July – Introductory Snowcraft Course

1-2 August – Basic Snowcraft Course

14-15 August – Advanced Snowcraft Course

12-13 September Open Snow Week-end, based at MUAC Hut, Ruapehu

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NOTICES:

1/ **New Members:** We welcome to our club: Cathy Morton – 551 Ruahine Street
P.N. 77497

2/ **Search & Rescue List Update**

The club's list will be on the board at club night over the next few weeks so members can correct the details held on it. It would be most helpful if all members could add the name and phone number of their next of kin, or some other responsible person, so if they are overdue on a trip friends and work-places can be informed. It may never happen to you ... but see page 5!

3/ **PNTMC Anniversary Celebration**

Notice is hereby given that the club intends to celebrate its 21st anniversary on Waitangi Week-end, 1988. Keep that date open for something rather special.

4/ **Russ Lacey – Life Member**

It is with deep regret that we note the death of Russ Lacey, formerly a very active member of P.N.T.M.C.. He was its founding President in 1966/7 and President again in 1967/8. He served on the Club's committee again in 1970/1 and in 1972 at the Annual General Meeting, his continuing involvement with the Club was recognised when he was made a life member. He moved to Matamata in 1976.

In large part the club owes its existence to Russ Lacey's contribution, and we send our sincere condolences to his family.

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TRIP REPORTS

17-19 January – Urewera National Park

The Ureweras are so far away from Palmerston North that one requires a long weekend - on this occasion including Wellington Anniversary Day - to make a visit worthwhile. Alan intended to visit his sister and her husband at Piripaua, one of the small hydro-villages close to Lake Waikaremoana, on this week-end so he could help out with the transport. The logistics included a night's accommodation and the transfer of vehicles from the starting point (Whanganui Inlet on the Northwest corner of the lake) to Piripaua on Saturday morning. Alan and his sister also brought the vehicles to the end point of the trip on Monday (Onepoto Bay, at the southwest corner). To cater for very heavy usage the track around the lake is benched and has at least four huts. It often detours around deep inlets which extend a long way from the lake, so what may be a short distance across water is often a couple of kilometres further along the track. Two major peninsulas are avoided by crossing their isthmuses. The track alternates from climbing high above the lake to pass rugged sections of shoreline, to following very close to the lake edge. The Panekiri Bluff, a sandstone outcrop, dominates the view towards the southern end of the lake.

We fly camped in Te Kopua Bay on the first evening where Helen cajoled everyone else into the water for yet another compulsory swim. On the second day we deviated an hour from the route up a tributary of the lake for a view of the Korokoro falls. Later that day we said good-bye to the lake and struggled up the 1500 feet of so climb to the top of Panekiri Bluff.

The Puketapu Hut is situated 10 yards from the edge of the Bluff with a beautiful view of the lake. The prevailing wind blows up the bluff at a considerable velocity and continues upwards, leaving the top in comparative calm. The principal recreation here is to throw a plastic bag, a quarter full of water, over the edge of the bluff, and watch it rise in the air and fall slowly to the ground some 10 yards or so behind us:

Next morning we continued along the Panekiri Range and down to the road at Onepoto.

Party: Helen Dakin, Mary Davies, Leslie Warburton, Alan Mountford, Terry Coburn and Trevor Bissell.

14 -15 March - North East Ruahines-????!

Perhaps the most important feature of our trip to the north east Ruahines was that it was not to the north east Ruahines! A last minute change of plans (?) resulted in the trip being diverted to the Kaimanawas!!

Access to Waipakihi Hut was gained via the Umakarikari Range, along an extremely scenic track, much of the way above the bushline. General interest in going past the Hut to Junction Flat dwindled rapidly when it was realised the true name of the feature was Junction Top! Nevertheless, Graeme and I did the extra distance to gain some rewarding views over the upper Rangitikei River valley.

Sunday saw the round trip being completed with a stroll down the Waipakihi River until the junction with the track to Urchin Trig. Threatening weather held off and allowed reasonable views all day. Sunday was rounded off in classic

style with a soak (for some) in the Tokaanu Hot Pools. For all of us it was the first trip into this popular area of the Kaimanawas, and we would thoroughly recommend it to any other intending first timers!

We were: Dave Barker, Cheryl and Graeme Peters, Jenny Madgewick.

21-22 March –Dundas Ridge

The weather forecast for this week-end was not good, but unfortunately it was accurate! The good news was that there was plenty of scope for navigation practice.

We crossed the wall of the Upper Mangahao Dam in the drizzling rain and headed up College Creek to the start of the Puketuru track. Fortunately some kind sole (sic) has recut this not only on the climb onto the Dundas Ridge but also 2 kilometres further south through mixed leatherwood and snow grass. Another kilometre further on saw us onto open grassy tops travel. Some shelter was found from the wind and rain under a small bluff, so we did stop for lunch. By the time we reached Ruapae Peak we had had enough so we diverted to Herepai Hut for the night. We shared the Hut with Bush Tramping Club, there for their annual dinner. With Japanese costumes and make-up they really looked the part as they ate sukiyaki (and other Japanese foods) at trestle tables. We of course were accused of deliberate gate-crashing but were invited to partake in the plumduff and cream.

Next day we returned by the way we had come. As we climbed to the top of Ruapae we met a party of four who had failed to locate the route down to Herepai in the mist and had fly camped the night in very miserable conditions. However, they were cheerful enough on their way down.

By the way, Bush Tramping Club promised to gate crash our next dinner at Rangī Hut.

Party: Brad Owen, Wayne Baxter, Daryl and Linda Rowan, Nico Middelkoop and Trevor Bissell.

28-29 March – Bushcraft

On Saturday morning after visiting Heritage Lodge we tramped for an hour to the site of the old Tunupo Tent Camp. Situated on a river terrace with abundant flat camping ground and good shelter provided by red beech trees, it was soon the scene of much head scratching as participants worked out the best way to pitch two tent flies. Duly erected, and with lunch completed, a few spots of rain sent us under the cover of nylon for some bushcraft theory. In two groups Trevor and John discussed most of the theory of bushcraft and mountain safety and were able to answer the many questions which arose. A thorough review of the intricacy of map and compass sorted out a few problems and set the scene for the following day. Finally, to stretch the legs before dinner, a practical session of river crossing soon had us comfortably numb. A fine dinner cooked over an open fire and numerous brews finished off the day.

By 9 a.m. Sunday morning both groups had departed on a navigation exercise requiring them to travel, up a river, choose an appropriate place to begin climbing up a spur and to travel over untracked ridge to meet a formed track on which to return to camp. Although time constraints made the task difficult to achieve, what was accomplished was an illustration of how proper use of map and compass can make travel through unknown country both possible and safe. By 4 p.m. with all returned, the camp was dismantled and we retraced our steps to the vehicles.

We were: John Barkla, Trevor Bissell, Lorraine Bray, Andrew Davey, Jenny Dymock, Ben Harding, Stuart Hubbard, Phillip Lynch, Nico Middelkoop, Alan Mountford, Julie Plummer, Grant Weston.

12 April – Hikurangi Range

From the Department of Conservation Base we crossed the cage over the Kawhatau River and climbed very steeply up a good track before it eased off to a more acceptable gradient. Sunshine greeted us at the bush edge with good views. We followed a poled route, stopping for a time at the large picturesque tarn about halfway across the tops to McKinnon Hut. We espied the hut from the turnoff but continued through tall tussock and spaniard to the top of Hikurangi, the second highest peak in the Ruahine Range (1714m). To the south east a light dusting of snow highlighted the tops. We were entertained during lunch by a roaring stag which responded to our poor imitations and eventually came to within 400 metres, ready to sort us out. We returned the same way, taking about half the time to descend to the vehicles as we had taken to come.

We were: John Barkla, Phil Clerke, Ben Harding and Wayne Hutchinson.

11-20 April – Easter Ascent of Mount Sefton

This trip could be summarised as 1000 miles horizontal and 10,000 feet vertical. Perhaps an over-simplification, it nevertheless encapsulates the two distinctive features of our Easter trip.

Mount Sefton is about the tenth highest mountain in New Zealand and on the list of 20 or so 10,000 foot peaks. It represents one of the highest vertical height gains in New Zealand, beginning virtually at sea level at the start of the Copeland track and rising 10,359 feet about 2-3 days tramping later. Mount Sefton also lies south from Fox village, and is almost exactly a thousand miles return trip from Palmerston North.

Initial apprehension at attempting Sefty so late in the season was justified, but was quite unnecessary in our case since we were blessed with perfect weather and climbing conditions. We were rewarded for taking the preceding day off work by being a day ahead of the "bunch" – some 16 other climbers who had similar ideas to ours. Our walk in, including the soak at Welcome Flats hot pools, was almost devoid of company. We camped just below the snow, near Welcome Pass, in a bivvy site prepared some years earlier by Daryl Rowan and Keith McNaughton (thanks, you guys). Unlike their epic we had fantastic views morning and evening, across a carpet of cloud below us to the spectacular massifs of the La Perouse and Cook.

Having regard for the late season snow conditions, we elected to take the ridge route and avoid the enormous crevasses on the more usual glacier route. This proved to be excellent judgement since we gained considerable time on some "guns" from Dunedin, eventually gaining the summit well before them. On our descent we met the 16 others who also were to follow our steps along the ridge.

On a personal note, I am grateful to my 3 companions for such a superb finale to South Island climbing. With my departure for USA in August, this trip will be my last to the Mainland for some time. Apart from the unfortunate mishap with Roger's pack, and John nicking my hug (big surprise from Mary via Jo) under false pretences, it was a pleasure to have everything go perfectly, just for once!!!

Party: Dave Barker, John Barkla, Roger Redmayne, Howard Nicholson.

16-17 April – A Darned Good Easter Trip which Ended a Day and a Half Late

Catherine Farquhar, a club member now living and teaching in Blenheim, suggested a combined trip of club members from the Marlborough Tramping Club and our own. As a result, after much planning and numerous phone calls, Alan, Ben, Daryn and Trevor met Catherine and Murray (MTC) late on Thursday evening at a farmhouse in rural Blenheim. Even later that evening we all lay down to sleep beneath the stars and by the cars at the junction of the Branch River and Leatham River. The Branch flows into the Wairau which flows on to Blenheim.

Despite the fact that the dew on our sleeping bags began to freeze as we packed next morning, it was obviously going to be a great day. Some people used the flying fox to cross the Leatham, while others waded across and suffered numb toes as a result; however, they soon warmed up on the 15 kilometre or so trudge along a four-wheel-drive track to the forest service base hut at Greig's Stream. Murray had obtained permission for us to use this palatial home.

After a quick lunch we went up Scott's Stream on the other side of the Branch in order to climb Scotts Knob (7170 ft). This included a swing bridge and a 4WD road which gave way to track walking and boulder hopping to the upper basin. From here a steepish rib of rock and scrub led us through a line of bluffs to the grassy slopes and screes above, which in turn gave access to the north east ridge. Despite the horrendous appearance of jagged rock, the ridge gave easy access to the summit and tremendous views. The ridge on the south-west gave a straight-forward descent route to the scree basin on our return, but would have been an uninteresting climb. We were overtaken by nightfall in the stream and had to boulder-hop by torchlight.

Next day Catherine went out to the road to return a hired car and continue rehearsals for a stage show. Daryn also went out to sit an examination. The rest of us decided to traverse the range between the Branch and the Leatham Rivers from Mount Morris (6400') to some tarns in a high basin 15 kilometres to the south. This would give access to some high peaks close to the head of the Branch so we could return by the river.

The 4400 foot climb onto the range took us until lunchtime and the travel to the south was further slowed by numerous rocky sections. The country was very dry but a basin with a tarn was located just before nightfall. Next morning the route south led up a steep rocky peak since the map suggested that sidle routes would probably be cut off. The traverse continued slowly, with much scrambling and grovelling in gullies and so on. Morale picked up when the travelling got easier, ending in a towering gendarme on the final 900 feet climb to the high basin which was the intended destination of the previous day. However, a scree sidle on the Leatham side brought us to our camp site just before dusk.

We climbed to a trig at 6682 feet first thing next morning; didn't like the look of the next horrendous peak to the south, so we returned to camp, packed up, and re-ascended the main ridge. To the north a good spur led into the Branch Valley, so we sidled across the slopes and reached the bush line without too much trouble. There followed a difficult descent, over, around or through bluffs, gullies and dry waterfalls, finally emerging onto scree even further south.

After a recovery break on the banks of the Branch, we raced downstream 9 kilometres to the hut at the Misery Stream junction. We were now nicely placed to do the next 10 kilometres down to the Forest Service base next morning and from there walk out to Murray's car. However, it rained heavily all night and morning saw us sitting between two swollen rivers.

They remained high all day but had dropped markedly by the following morning. We were just able to cross the Branch on the flats below the Hut but did not wish to cross again. We travelled down valley, first along a good track but then, where the normal route follows the river flats and repeatedly crosses the stream, we became involved in much climbing, descending and general scrub bashing to avoid the bluffs and other obstacles that encroached upon the route. We eventually reached the road end too late to contemplate catching the last ferry home.

After contacting Catherine and the police to prevent any searches being raised, we retired to the Renwick Fish and Chip shop and thence to Murray's home. We were very grateful for Murray's offer of a ride to Picton at 4 a.m. next morning to connect with the 5.40 ferry.

We were also grateful for Linda Rowan's efforts in locating and informing the relevant relatives and employers etc so that no fears were held for our safety.

Team: Murray Chapman, Catherine Farquhar, Ben Harding, Alan Mountford, Daryn Scott, Trevor Bissell.

25-26 April – Putangirua Pinnacles

This was a rare trip, joining with 5 others from the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club, for a visit to the southern tip of the North Island. The Wairarapa lived up to its usual reputation and gave us fine calm weather. Recent flooding seems to be opening some of the side valleys and from memory there seem to be more pinnacles than in previous years.

Rather than only looking from the viewing area above, we went down into the Putangirua Stream to the base of the Pinnacles. We explored the narrow corridors between pinnacles and, notwithstanding a few problems with loose rocks, we all got up and down safely.

Sunday proved equally interesting with a visit to the Blue Creek Glow-worm caves in the morning and a stop at the Mount Bruce Wildlife Sanctuary in the afternoon. We received an added treat by being able to see the first public flying display of a New Zealand Falcon. This fairly rare bird is a superb high speed flier and deadly on its prey. Birds trained at Mount Bruce will eventually be used for seabird control at Wellington airport. The bond between Rob the Falconer and "Major" the 3 month old falcon was amazing to see.

We were: Dave Barker, David Woods, + 5 MTSC members.

9 May – Kahuterawa Road to Scotts Road

It was one out of the box for the twelve who left from Foodtown car park after having had some little difficulty in identifying the meeting point. Parking spaces were at something of a premium at 11 a.m. on Saturday morning!

Leaving Black Bridge (beyond Brown House) we followed the old Land Rover track up to the top where the road meets up with Scotts Road. After having enjoyed the sunshine, pleasant company and good food we were led back down the track by Malana and Moana.

We were: Tricia, Malana, Moana, Sally, Lorraine, Kerry-Anne, Malcolm, Kathy M, Margaret, Dorothy, Kathryn and Terry.

3 May – Last Tango in the Tararuas

It was billed in the Newsletter as a Tararua Two-Step, a genteel ramble through the bush to Roaring Stag Lodge. And things boded very well for us as we headed in two cars across the Pahiatua Track. The sky was clear and blue, the sun was out, and as we headed south we could see Mitre and the other peaks of the southern Tararuas majestically wrapped in snow.

Entering the bush from the Putara road end we followed the pleasant track beside the Mangatainoka river, past a few decidedly fishy pools, and through sun-dappled glades which would challenge the moral fibre of any pen-wielding moralist (eh, Graeme?). There followed quite a steep ascent, culminating in the curious patch of bush, devoid of undergrowth in which the track junction to Roaring Stag and Herepai is located. Faced with the choice of a further walk in the shade of the bush to Roaring Stag Lodge, and a climb up to the open tops, we opted for the latter. At Herepai Hut, most pleasantly situated with its porch catching the mid-day sun, we refreshed ourselves, regrouped, and then set out for the final climb up to Herepai Peak, which we reached after around 2¾ hours tramping from the road end. It would have been nice to have pressed on to Ruapae peak to glimpse the Dundas Ridge beyond, but time was against

us. So we contented ourselves with the view down the Ruapae Stream, of Ruapae, East Peak and the Snow covered Cattle Ridge to the south. The first hint of cloud was beginning to lick around the summit of East Peak as we retraced our steps to the hut and thence back the way we had come. It was a glorious day, perhaps a little strenuous for some, but all the more rewarding for it.

Team: Bob Barrell, Peter Clough, Monica Cantwell, Jenny Dymock, Ben Harding, Cathy Morton, Margaret Riordan, David Woods.

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