

# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

October/November 1987

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Secretary:	Trevor Bissell		73-543
Gear Custodian:	Daryl Rowan		64-655
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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

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Vaughan Crow:	Home Ph. 69-832	Work Ph. 74-129
Trevor Bissell:	73-543	74-129
Tricia Eder	70-122	79-946

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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.

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## COMING EVENTS:

### 31<sup>st</sup> October - 1<sup>st</sup> November - Caving, Waitomo

How about tramping underground? If you like scrambling, chimneying, crawling, squeezing and you don't mind getting wet and grubby you will enjoy caving. Come along and try it!

Leader: Urs Schupbach Ph. 80245  
Grade: Easy/medium  
Departs: Friday 6pm

### 31<sup>st</sup> October - Piriouri Stream, Ruahines

A mix of interesting country lies in the corner of where the Pohangina River and the Ngamoko Range meet.

Leader: Chris Morton Ph. 77497  
Grade: Easy/Medium  
Departs: Saturday 8am

### 5<sup>th</sup> November - Committee Meeting All members are welcome to attend

Time: 7.45 pm  
Venue: 51 Lyndhurst St, P.N.

### 7-8<sup>th</sup> November - Umukarikari, Kaimanawas

A good opportunity to be introduced to the Kaimanawas with a camp right on the tops.

Leader: Peter Wiles Ph. 86894  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday 7am

### 12<sup>th</sup> November - Club night

Sheena Taylor will be giving a talk entitled "Outdoor recreation for the disabled".

Time: 7.45 pm  
Venue: Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms  
227 College St, Palmerston Nth.

### **14-15<sup>th</sup> November – Ngamoko, Longview, Ruahines**

For a change Longview Hut will be approached from the western side of the Ruahines, including bush, open tops and good views.

Leader: Linda Rowan Ph. 64655  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday 6am

### **14<sup>th</sup> November - Beehive Creek, Pohangina Valley**

Come along and explore a side branch of the Pohangina Valley.

Leader: Tricia Eder Ph. 70122  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Saturday, 9am

### **21<sup>st</sup> November - Cycling**

A leisurely push bike ride is the best preparation for a big Christmas dinner.

Leader: Urs Schupbach, Ph. 80245  
Grade: All  
Departs: Saturday 9am

### **21<sup>st</sup> November - Christmas Dinner**

A smorgasbord meal and dance will be held at the Sherwood from 7.30pm. Tickets are \$30 single and are available from Cheryl Peters (Ph. 65581) at club night or pay on the night.

### **21-22<sup>nd</sup> November - SAREX**

There is another SAREX being held in the Mangahoe area which unfortunately clashes with the Christmas dinner. If you think you can miss out on good food go along to the exercise and learn about search and rescue. A team of four is needed. Please contact Daryl Rowan Ph. 64655.

### **28-29<sup>th</sup> November - Mt Hector, Tararuas**

A weekend trip in the vicinity of Mt Hector in the southern part of the Ruahines.

Leader: Pat Janssen, Ph. 78762  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday, 7am

### **29<sup>th</sup> November – Maharahara, Ruahines**

A visit to the southern Ruahines intending to do a double crossing.

Leader: Kevin Pearce, Ph. 70217  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Sunday 7am.

## **NOTICES**

1) New members - we welcome the following new members to the club  
David Wood, 6 Antrim Place, P.N. Work Ph.69099 x 7752  
Roger Scott, 63 Collingwood St, P.N. Ph. 80222

### **2) A Fine Debate**

This past month saw yet another fine team of PNTMC debaters take the floor for the annual MUAC vs PNTMC debate. Graham, Jenny and Julie had obviously spent time sorting out the finer points (and exercising their vocal cords) in the topic "That all people should be charged for the use of crown lands", and displayed great skill in rebutting the opposition's argument. Julie also won the title of best speaker. Congratulations to the PNTMC team. The coveted boot trophy and cup remain in the hands of the PNTMC for yet another year.

### **3) Tramping Club T-shirts**

Orders are being taken for club T-shirts complete with club boot motif. Various colours available. Ideal as Christmas presents. See or phone Terry Crippen (Ph. 63588) or place your order on the list at club nights.

### **4) Tararua management plan**

Club members may have noticed a recent article in the Palmerston North Evening Standard reporting a public meeting held in Levin on proposals for the Tararuas. Topics discussed were the proposed removal of non-essential marker poles in the open tops and up to 21 of the 58 huts. Ecological areas will be given the highest level of protection. The

next level of protection (class two) covers most of the park and no expansion of recreation facilities will be permitted. Some road endings will be given special Class 3 status for passive recreational development and easier walking tracks will be developed in conjunction with these. More details can be found in "Tararua Conservation Park - a discussion paper for the management plan review". Club members are urged to make submissions and the discussion paper is available from the Department of Conservation at a cost of \$1.

5) **Christmas at Rangī** is coming up soon on the weekend 12-13th December.

6) **Open Club Christmas Trip**

We intend to spend up to 10 days in or near the northern fringe of Mt Aspiring National Park, possibly in the Blue, Young, Siberia and Wilkin Valleys. Depending on transport arrangements the trip should begin around December 28<sup>th</sup>. It should be suitable for people of medium fitness and will cross saddles between the valleys. More energetic climbs should provide interest for fitter people. An early expression of interest would greatly assist with the logistics (=big word for how to get there and back). Please contact Trevor Bissell Ph. 73543.

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **8<sup>th</sup> August - Harris Creek Hut**

This tramp was graded as an easy trip so an early start was made. However, both cars decided to go on strike after we'd stopped to use the phone at the Bower House to check the road conditions. With much patience and tinkering Darren managed to get the car going and off we went to the top dam hoping that nothing would stop us on the way. As for getting the cars started for the homeward trip, well.....we would worry about that after the tramp. Fortunately there were no problems.

With Terry and Clair leading the way we made good time following the track all the way up and arrived at Harris Creek Hut at about 11.45 am. Lunch was had down by the river boulders. Even though it appeared more sunny on the other side of the river it was decided that it was not worth crossing over and ending up with wet feet. That can wait for summer when although the water isn't much warmer the sun is and the breeze is not so chilling.

On the return Terry and Clair decided to take a short jaunt down the river and then because the dam was full they rejoined the track before the lower bridge. Is the watch still working Terry?

We were: Terry Coburn, Clair Craven, Janet Baird, Simon McCracken, Darren Scott, Marianne Boekman, Tricia Eder.

### **5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> September – Kawhatau, North western Ruahines**

It was a small group that assembled on Saturday morning. We arrived at Kawhatau after 2 hours of following (and deviating from) a winding road. The weather was lousy, with occasional drizzle, but undeterred we set out. The start of our tramp featured a cable way across the Kawhatau River and then a long steady climb up onto the Hikurangi Range. At river level we had been enclosed in forests of beech and totara trees but as we climbed these gave way to smaller plants more suitable for higher altitudes and harsher weather. At about 1300m the bush finally relented and we followed a poled route along the Hikurangi Range. The view, which would have been spectacular, was lost in the mist and plans to continue along the range to the summit of Mt Hikurangi were abandoned. We descended to Crow Hut arriving in time for lunch. As soon as we arrived at the hut the weather cleared but none of us had the enthusiasm to climb back up the Hikurangi Range. Instead we spent the rest of the afternoon sunbathing.

Although Sunday dawned fine it had been cold and wet overnight and a fine dusting of snow could be seen above the bushline. We crossed the Kawhatau by way of a swing bridge and headed up a spur on the true right of the river. Another 1000m climb from forests to tussocks and we were on the top of the flat-topped Patea Range. With a bit more snow it would have been ideal ski touring country. We took a leisurely 3 hours to walk along the range to the Colenso high point. Views that we had missed the day before lay below us. To the northwest the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park dominated the landscape.

We descended to the car down a very muddy track that was definitely more suitable as a downhill track. Home to Palmy, stopping only for ice-creams.

We were: Urs Schupbach, Ruth Habegger, John Wright, Jennifer Madgewick and Gordon.

### **19-20<sup>th</sup> September - Ngamoko Range/Pohangina River**

Several shots announced that the rifle range was in use as we walked in to the Heritage Lodge. Nearer to the lodge the sound of a chain saw could be heard; the local branch of the Deerstalkers Association were out in force recutting the track up to the Ngamoko Range.

Care was needed near the bushline to avoid being hit by lumps of snow falling from the canopy. A quick lunch was taken on the top of Tunipo while we desperately added extra items of clothing. Visibility came and went as we plugged steps in the snow northwards along the range but the wind was moderately strong and cold. The correct spur was located and we descended the cut track to the Top Gorge Hut in the Pohangina Valley.

The hut had two bunks and a concrete floor but provided adequate shelter for the five of us and three shooters. Four slept on the floor on three mattresses and two slept on each bunk on closed cell foam mats.

One or two of us may have had dry backsides on arrival at Leon Kinvig Hut the next day. More serious immersion was avoided by climbing above pools in the gorge, sometimes on tracks. After lunch at Leon Kinvig we climbed the track to Toka Peak. Very little snow remained but the weather was rather unpleasant so we continued immediately down Short's Track to Limestone Road.

Party: Ben Harding, Alan Mountfort, Shane Tweeddale, Peter Munn and Trevor Bissell.

### **3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October - Mitre Peak**

An early start for the team on Saturday morning, leaving Palmy in sun and passing through the odd shower on the way to the Waingawa River, eastern Tararuas.

Our walk was going to take us to Mitre Flats, up Mitre, over Brockett, down to Cow Creek Hut, then out via the Waingawa River on Sunday. That was Plan 'A' but we ended up reverting to Plan 'B', which meant dropping gear at Mitre Flats, going up Mitre for the views (and the wind as it turned out!) then back to Mitre Flats Hut for the night. Not a bad walk, a bit easier going with lighter packs!

An interesting night was had in the hut which we shared with a couple of people. We didn't realise that Plan 'B' involved listening to childrens' stories on Sunday morning but we hadn't heard some of them.

We had a leisurely walk to the car down the Waingawa River bed and couldn't have picked a better day to do it. If you don't mind wet feet it's the way to go - quite pretty and recommended by all of us as an alternative to the track. Plan 'B' wouldn't have been complete without an icecream - guess why we stopped at Eketahuna.

We still are; Lorraine, Ben, John and Phil.

### **4<sup>th</sup> October – Coppermine Stream**

Yet another easy wander up Coppermine Stream (that's what it's called on the map). This time to try and find the main mine shaft in operation from 1887-1930. About 3 or 4 shafts were mined between the north and south branches of the valley up from the hut. The mineralised vein containing copper and iron was discontinuous and not enough for production. This gives the interesting red and green rocks found in the stream. The greywacke that makes up the Ruahines and other ranges in NZ has localised mineralization. Besides this mine (known as Maharahara Mine) gold was mined near Wellington and manganese in the Motumati area of the Kaimanawa Ranges. Elsewhere in the Kaimanawas there is Gold Creek (also called Panoko Stream) but this made have been due to "fools gold" (iron pyrites) being found there or the golden glow of the tussock.

Enough of the geology! Back at Coppermine we searched up the first side stream on the true left of the South Branch - a steep scrubby stream. John Barkla and Julian Dalefield had come across it on a search some time ago and it was covered over with scrub. We didn't find it this time. We then headed up the North Branch to a shorter but easily located shaft at stream level. Inside was a large population of cave wetas so we left them to it.

The mine shaft investigators were: Alan Mountfort, Tina Alley, Inge Doepfner, Ian Kirker, Julian Dalefield and Terry Crippen.

### **October 11<sup>th</sup> - Ohau Shelter**

After a leisurely start from Palmerston Nth we arrived at the road end just after 10am. For those trampers who enjoy an easy tramp but were unable to join us, this trip is initially across a pole marked route - 2 paddocks worth. Over the style the bush track begins. The track is of easy gradient with some muddy patches. About 50 metres this side of the swing bridge there is the turnoff for the circular route. Markers on this tracks are above eye level so you have to watch out for them.

We arrived at the Shelter approximately one and a half hours from the car park and decided to adjourn to the river flats for lunch. Unfortunately it was about the same time that the sun disappeared and the air temperature became decidedly chilly with a cool breeze blowing down the river. In summer the river is really nice to wander down. Lovely swimming holes for pack floating but too cold at the moment as vouched for by Terry and John. They decided to bush bash back up to the track where we met them. The return trip was made in the rain but we made it back to the cars before the skies opened.

Thanks to Janet for opening and shutting the gate in the rain. I think it had something to do with equality and equal rights. An enjoyable day had by all - Terry Crippen, John Thomson, Janet Baird, Monica Cantwell, Margaret Riordan, Liz Morrison, Tricia Eder.

### **Farewell and Good Travels - John and Marilyn.**

At the October Committee Meeting John Barkla tendered his resignation from the committee. John plans take him (and Marilyn) on a four month trip to South America and then on to Wanganui for future employment.

P.N.T.M.C. has a lot to thank John for - primarily his enthusiasm and dedication to the club. John arrived in Palmerston North in 1980 and has been an active member of the club since then. He has taken a number of positions on the committee over the past years (notably the unenviable "trips convenor" ! ) and was Vice-President for the past two years. Those of us who have tried to keep up with John on tramps in the Ruahines and Tararuas appreciate his keen interest in those regions particularly John's immense knowledge of the Ruahine's flora and fauna.

Marilyn has been in the club for two years and has extended her abilities across the board in tramping and more recently climbing. Her dogged application to snowcraft technique saw her applying the new found skills a short time after learning them!

We wish you both the best for your travels and invite you back for the compulsory club slide presentation on your return.

# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB 21st BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

**12 -14 February 1988**

## **TO CELEBRATE**

P.N.T.M.C.'s Coming of Age a weekend of tramping and social activities will be held at THE RANGIWAHIA TOWNSHIP HALL on 12-14<sup>th</sup> February 1988. The Hall is close to the Ruahines and down the road from "our" Rangī Hut . So make a decision and come and join us. A good time is guaranteed for all.

The weekend will cater for all ex-, present, and future club members, families and friends; young and old.

## **EVENTS:**

- A Wine and Cheese Evening -Friday night (7:30pm).
- Tramping on Saturday - short trips for the kids and Saturday Walkers, longer for those who want the exercise, and for the dedicated fanatics a six hour Ruahine epic specially (arranged for the weekend. Trips will leave 9.00am. (All are day trips - bring appropriate gear).
- Saturday Evening Dinner (B.Y.O.) (6:00 pm) followed by a
- Country Dance to the music of "The Battered Hats" - a P.N. folk-country-scottish band.
- Sunday more socialising, a little light exercise and a light lunch or a swim in the local pool to cool off.

## **HOW MUCH?:**

Friday – Sunday	\$40 (Adults) \$20 (Children)
Saturday – Sunday	\$30 (Adults) \$15 (children)

## **SO?:**

Pick up your karrimats and sleeping bag and make your way to Palmerston North for this great weekend of fun and nostalgia!

Accommodation - sleep in the hall or bring your tent. Bring your "regular" tramping lunch for Saturday. Breakfasts, dinner Saturday Night and lunch Sunday provided.

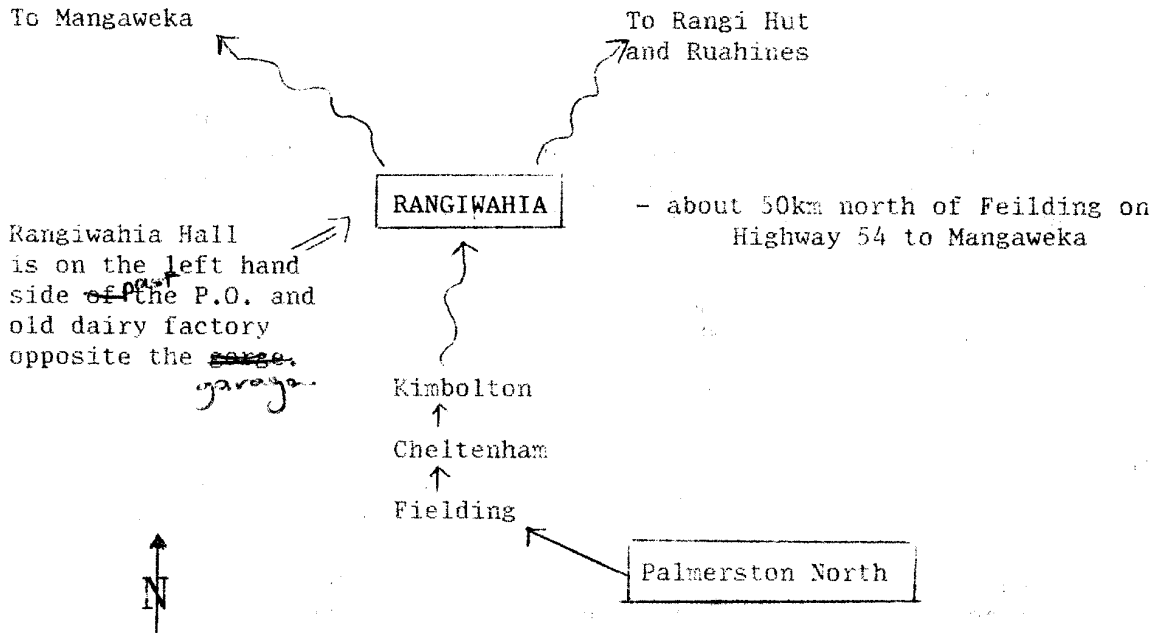
## **FILL IN AND SEND**

The Registration Form below and a cheque to cover costs and post to P.N.T.M.C. or pass to one of the organising committee (below) by December 14<sup>th</sup> 1987.

Further Information Phone: Terry Crippen (063) 63-588  
Vaughan Crow (063) 86-569  
Linda Rowan, (063). 64:-655  
Damienne Eder (063) 71-785

Send form to: The Secretary  
P.N.T.M.C. 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Celebration  
P.O. Box 1217.  
Palmerston North

HOW TO GET TO RANGIWAHIA?



**P.N.T.M.C. 21ST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
REGISTRATION FORM.  
12 - 14 February 1988**

I'll be there!  
Name .....

Address.....  
.....  
.....

Phone .....

Along with me will be:  
Names .....

.....  
.....  
.....

(Please supply ages of children)

Please indicate

1. We will be Arriving At Rangiwahia Hall by our own transport ..... Yes/No.

We will have room to take extra passengers ..... Yes/No.

We will arrive at Rangiwahia Township Hall (tick one)  
- on Friday night (7:00 pm onwards)  
- on Saturday in time for the tramping trips (9:00 am)  
- on Saturday afternoon.

2. We will require help with transport from Palmerston North .... Yes/No.

We will arrive at in Palmerston North ready to go to Rangiwahia Township Hall (please tick)  
- on Friday night  
- on Saturday in time for the tramps (7:00 am)

Enclosed Please find a cheque for \$ .....  
for .....adults and .....children.

Please Post to: The Secretary  
P.N.T.M.C. 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Celebration  
P.O. Box 1217  
Palmerston North

by: 14<sup>th</sup> December 1987.