



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING

## CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

## NEWSLETTER

January/February 1988

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Membership Enquiries:	Tricia Eder	Ph.	70-122
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:

#### 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January -Northern Tararua Crossing

Have you ever tried a Northern Tararua crossing? Join the elite few who have made it. With an extra day it should be a bit easier. A day trip could also be organised in the same area.

Leader: Trevor Bissell Ph. 73543  
Grade: Medium/fit  
Departs: Saturday 6am

#### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January - Club night

\*\*\* Barbeque \*\*\*

Venue: 110 Manawatu St, P.N.

Keep this evening free as it is a good chance to hear about club members' trips over the holiday break (Ph Linda Rowan 64655).

#### 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> January - Sawtooth Ridge, Eastern Ruahines

This trip takes you to one of the wildest parts of the Ruahines Main Divide. But after many year of rough weather the teeth are quite worn so there is no danger of being cut. We will stay the night at Howletts Hut with a good view of Hawkes Bay.

Leader: John Wright Ph. 64258  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: Saturday 6am

#### Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February - Committee meeting

Venue: 57 Fairs Rd, P.N.

Time: 7.45 pm

Please note change of date.

#### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February - Club night**

Peter Darragh, a former PNTMC member recently returned from overseas will give an illustrated talk on 'Tasmanian tramping' OR if his slides of Australia are not processed in time (in view of the impending cricket victory over Australia). Peter will entertain us with slides of his travels in general.

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

#### **6-7<sup>th</sup> February – Egmont National Park**

Alan is not sure where he is going to lead this trip but it will be somewhere around Mt Egmont/Taranaki. Another good weekend can be guaranteed.

Leader: Alan Mountfort Ph. 69715  
Grade: medium  
Departs: Friday 6pm or Saturday 6am.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> February - Beehive Creek, Pohangina Valley**

After a washed out Beehive trip in November we are going to have another try in more settled weather. This will be a leisurely easy family day trip.

Leader: Tricia Eder Ph. 70122  
Grade: Easy - family  
Departs: Saturday 9.30am

#### **12-14<sup>th</sup> February - PNTMC 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Celebrations**

So far nearly 50 people are coming including both present and past members from Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, Wellington as well as Palmerston North. So it should be a great weekend. Due to catering requirements attendance is by registration only. Late registration will be accepted up to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Registration forms appeared in the last 2 newsletters or can be obtained by the following people;

Terry Crippen Ph.63588  
Vaughn Crow 86569  
Linda Rowan 64655  
Damienne Eder 71785

#### **20-21<sup>st</sup> February - Pohangina Valley, Ruahines**

This weekend Daryl will have a good look at the Pohangina Valley with you.

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

#### **20<sup>th</sup> February - Pushbike ride**

Would you like a swim on a hot summer day? On your bike and off to Horseshoe Bend. Should be good fun!

Leader: Tricia Eder Ph. 70122  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Saturday 1?pm

#### **27-28<sup>th</sup> February – Maunaahuka, Tararuas**

Going in on Friday night .to Field Hut this trip will see us on the tops all next day. Saturday night will be spent at the Maungahuka Hut and back out on Sunday via Waitewaewae.

Leader: Roger Redmayne Ph. (0650)-48376  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: Friday, 6am

#### **27<sup>th</sup> February - Manawatu Gorge Adventure**

A rock scrambling investigation of that inviting rocky waterfall stream in the Manawatu Gorge. Access by canoe or swimming.

Leader: Terry Crippen Ph. 63588  
Grade: All  
Departs: Saturday 9am

## **NOTICES**

- 1) We would like to thank Cheryl for her organisation of the Christmas Dinner which was enjoyed by all. 26 people attended and helped consume a record number of oysters.
- 2) Congratulations to Urs Schupbach and Ruth Habegger who were married towards the end of last year.
- 3) New members  
We would like to welcome the following new members to the club  
Gayle Hogan, 3 Pluto Place, P.N. Ph. 86443  
Ruth Schupbach, 94 Wood St, P.N. Ph. 80245
- 4) Change of address  
Roger Redmayne, Hope Rd, RD 3 Woodville
- 5) Macpac Ruahine Mountain Marathon - 20-21<sup>st</sup> February 1988  
For trampers, orienteers, runners, outdoor enthusiasts 5 courses are available to be held in the Ruahine Ranges organised by the Hawkes Bay Orienteering Club and the Heretaunga Tramping Club. Entry forms available from Trevor Bissell Ph. 73543.
- 6) PNTMC 21st Celebrations - HELPERS REQUIRED  
We need people to help buy, prepare and cook food during the week preceding the 21st Celebrations - i.e. 8-12<sup>th</sup> February and/or at the weekend itself. If you can help let Terry Crippen know (Ph. 63588 Home, 67154 Work)
- 7) Flatmate wanted  
Non-smoking flatmate wanted for central flat. Phone Terry Crippen Home: 63588, Work 67154.

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **10-11<sup>th</sup> October - Traverse of the Dundas Ridge that wasn't**

Continual rain on Friday saw us changing our plans from a complete traverse of the Dundas Ridge to a trip in the Holdsworth area of the Tararuas. In the dark we set out for the Mountain House, no chance of botanising, they all looked the same. We arrived at some absurd hour and headed straight to bed to catch some z's.

Marginql weather on Saturday morning saw us descending to the Atiwhakatu Stream. Above us high winds and rain clouds battled but most of the precipitation fell to the west of Mt Holdsworth leaving us in fine weather. We congratulated ourselves on changing our plans – the Dundas Ridge would not have been very pleasant. It was a leisurely walk up the valley. We were much amused at Inga who had not yet discovered the Kiwi way of crossing a river - through it not over it! A little more effort was required as we climbed up to Jumbo Hut arriving at about mid-afternoon. The remainder of the day passed in a very lazy manner indeed. So much for the intended fit trip.

Next morning we decided to attempt a walk along the ridge to Mt Holdsworth. On up we climbed, reaching Jumbo and then leaning hard against the wind from the west we continued to Mt Holdsworth. We reached the summit around 10.30 am but it was so cold and the view lost in the mist that we quickly descended, reaching Powell Hut for an early lunch. A superb view out to Masterton was below us but an hour later it was gone as the cloud finally crawled over the ridge to descend on us. Back to the cars we raced - the rain overtook us at Holdsworth Lodge.

We were: Trevor Bissell, Inga, Jennifer Madgewick, John Wright.

### **17-18<sup>th</sup> October - Lake Colenso**

It was a brilliantly fine and clear morning that greeted us as we set off on the trip. From the Mokai road end we followed the poled route to the foot of the Mokai-Patea Range. Rather than continuing along the poled route which goes miles out of the way we cheated and took the short cut straight up to the Mokai-Patea. This was a bit of a grunt with Linda taking her shirt off - probably to ward off the wild steers in the vicinity. From there it was down to Iron Bark Hut for lunch then over the top to Lake Colenso - a picturesque lagoon like lake surrounded by bush and inhabited by noisy paradise ducks. With the weather on our side we camped out rather than squeeze into Colenso Hut.

On Sunday we returned via the unknown stream. Travel was fairly plain sailing apart from one major obstacle - a 20 metre waterfall. Quite a high sidle was required to circumnavigate it. From Iron Bark Hut we retraced the previous day's footprints to the road end.

We were: Daryl and Linda Rowan, Ben Harding, Dave Sussmilch & Alan Mountfort.

### **31<sup>st</sup> October-1<sup>st</sup> November - A Weekends caving at Waitomo**

The group assembled at 6pm on Friday evening at 28 Carroll St. In 3 cars we headed to Waitomo, stopping for Taihape for ice creams. On Saturday the action began around 10am. Divided into 2 groups we were led by Urs and Trevor. The first cave my group visited was Lucky Strike. Being a newcomer to the world of caving I didn't really know what to expect, nor did most of the others in the group. The cave began with some very awkward traversing around slippery ledges before we dropped into the stream using a caving ladder we had brought with us. Down into the stream we descended, carbide lamps piercing the darkness.

Once the initial apprehension had worn off I began to appreciate the world I had just entered. Stalactites, each one unique, hung from the roof. More delicate formations called straws grew from the roof - some of them were almost 3 metres in length. Stalagmites, striving to reach their partners above covered the floor. The cave opened and closed, sometimes we were bridging the walls at other times we were walking in the stream. There seemed to be no end to the variation in the structure of the cave or its formations. Our return via the same route was made more interesting by an exploration of some of the upper levels of the cave. This involved some exciting climbing along walls and above holes that seemed more menacing in the long shadows of our carbide lamps. Encouragement and help given by all made these moments a little easier.

Both groups had a brief visit to the outside world, exchanged stories and then caves. Our next cave was called Waipuna and was visited more frequently. Urs pointed out some of the distinctive formations. Their names gave an idea of their shape; the miniature forest, the electrode, falling tower of Pisa. All too soon we were back out returning via the same route.

That evening the more enthusiastic among us put on wetsuits for what is called a 'float through' or black water rafting. The cave is called Ruakuri and is one of the tourist caves visited by the less fortunate who have to open their wallets before having the marvels pointed out to them. We followed down several narrow passages before merging with the Waitomo Stream. A 7 ft waterfall faced us and there seemed to be 2 solutions to overcoming it. I joined Phil and leapt over giving little thought to the possibility of concealed rocks. The remainder of the trip was spent floating down the stream in tyre tubes with our lamps off. Above us a night sky but this one with a difference - it was lit by thousands of glow worms.

Sunday arrived and we were again divided into two groups but unfortunately we only had time to visit one cave each. Trevor took one group to Gardners Gut (one of the larger caves in the area) and Urs took our group to Urenui. For us there was no easy entrance but a 116 ft shaft which we abseiled. After assembling at the bottom of the shaft we headed off following Urs as he mumbled the encouraging words 'I always get lost in this bit'. Forty minutes of travel through a narrow passage, sometimes having to crawl brought us to a huge shaft (called an aven). We continued along a passage that began 20 feet up the side of the aven and followed it to its end. Here we found a world of clay sculptures made by previous cavers. We added our contributions to the gallery before departing.

Our return trip featured some exciting exploration of the less frequented upper levels of the cave. Huge formations hung from the ceiling but the cave floor was mostly bare and covered with mud. We passed the entry shaft and headed for the true exit where the stream flowed out and joined the Waitomo Stream. I had been warned of the squeazy passages but this did not prepare me for half immersing myself in cold water and squirming through holes barely bigger than myself. The last of these passages was about 10 metres in length and required us to lie completely flat. Confidently I followed Urs knowing I was about the same size and made it through. From within the cave we heard cries of exclamation and concern from Ian, the biggest member of the group. "Where are you stuck - what part of your body?" Urs inquired. "From my shoulders to my bum" was the reply. Some concentrated squirming and Ian was through.

Back to the huts, a shower and wait for Trevor's group who arrived several hours later. They had also had a successful day. Tired but contented we headed home. A brilliant display of light on Mt Ruapehu in the setting sun completed a very successful weekend for all of us.

Thanks very much to our leaders and to those who haven't experienced caving - give it a try. It's an exciting world down there. We were: Urs Schupbach, Ruth Habegger, Tricia Eder, Mike Jenkins, Trevor Bissell, Ian Kirker, Janet Baird, Sheena Taylor, Phil Clerke, John Wright.

The author makes no apologies for the length of this report saying the trip deserved all the write up.

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

We arrived at the road end alongside the Waipakihi River in good time. We offloaded cargo and drove further north along the Desert Rd and left Alan's car at the Rangipo Power House track exit. An hour after leaving them we rejoined the rest of the group waiting at the Waipakahi. We then commenced up the Waipakihi Valley crossing and re-crossing the river many times. A brisk wind initially went against us but this was compensated for by sunny conditions. We passed many ideal camping sites for both small and large groups. After lunch it was more river crossings but gradually the river flats got longer and more grassy. At the Urchin track turnoff we had a rest during which Dave put his pliers to good use to remove

a screw from rather intimate contact with his foot. After we passed the Thunderbolt Track we began to look for a suitable campsite. We stopped at a stream that drains the southern slopes of Umukarikari (about 5km short of the Waipakahi Hut) and pitched a fly in the bush. By late evening light rain set in.

The next morning we set off up the bush clad ridge that north directly to the summit of Umukarikari. With some surprise we found an old but easy and well blazed track to follow to the bushline. As we emerged onto the tops the drizzle eased and we got a good view of the length of the valley. Higher up we entered the cloud and eventually met the Umukarikari - Waipakahi track. The summit was a non event as far as the view went so we headed south and then west along the track to re-enter the bush and arrived at Alan's car just before mid-day. We spent a very worthwhile hour or so inspecting the narrow gorges of the Tongariro River - initially on the road back to the Desert Rd and also by turning off down Treetrunk Gorge Road. At Taihape it was mandatory ice cream time. Unfortunately the resumption of the journey was held up by about an hour while we attempted to break into Alan's car to rescue his keys. Once again Dave and his pliers came in handy with another demonstration of what can be done with a piece of bent wire and some patience and dexterity.

Team of; Julian Dalefield, Ben Harding, Alan Mountfort, Dave Newstead and Peter Wiles.