



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
NEWSLETTER

April/May 1988

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Membership Enquiries:	Tricia Eder	Ph.	70-122
Secretary:	Trevor Bissell		73-543
Gear Custodian:	Daryl Rowan		64-655
Newsletter Editor:	Jenny Dymock		79-649

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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
Daryl & Linda Rowan:	64-655	68-019

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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:

### 23-25<sup>th</sup> April - Mt Taranaki

Over Anzac Weekend we'll visit Egmont National Park. While the fast ones tramp all around the mountain the rest of us could explore the area around Lake Dive.

Leaders: Easy - Tricia Eder Oh 70122  
Medium – Urs Schupbach Ph 80245

Departs: Saturday 6am

### 24<sup>th</sup> April - Mt Holdsworth, Tararua

If you can't go away all weekend here is your chance to get out of town after all.

Leader: Alan Mountfort Ph. 69715

Grade: Medium

Departs: Sunday, 6am

### April 28<sup>th</sup> – Club night

The Wharepapa declaration - mining legislation - presentation of slides and discussion by Terry Crippen

Venue: Society of Friends' Meeting Rooms  
227 College St, P.N.

Time: 7.45pm

### 30<sup>th</sup> April - 1<sup>st</sup> May - Bushcraft

After this weekend in the Mikikiki Stream area you will know all the essentials of navigating through bush, setting up camp, crossing rivers and many more important tramping skills. Come prepared for camping.

Leader: Trevor Bissell Ph. 73543

Grade: All

Departs: Saturday 6am.

### **5<sup>th</sup> May - Committee Meeting**

Venue: 12 Jensen St, P.N.  
Time: 7.45pm

### **7<sup>th</sup> May - Mt Bruce Native Bird Reserve**

An easy enjoyable walk among some of New Zealand's native birds. A chance to see takahes, kiwis, saddlebacks and other rare New Zealand birds.

Leader: John Wright Ph.64258  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: Saturday 8am

### **12<sup>th</sup> May - Club night**

Donald French former club member will be giving an illustrated talk on rock climbing entitled "Rock Around NZ"

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

### **May 14-15<sup>th</sup> Egmont National Park**

A trip to Lake Dive, a small lake on the southern side of Mt Egmont. A chance for all who missed the ANZAC weekend visit to the park.

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

### **May 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Southern Kaimanawas**

An interesting trip to an area not often visited by the club. This trip is going to take in Umukarikari Peak, a night in Waipakahi Hut and out the Waipakahi River.

Leader: Pat Janssen Ph.78762  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Saturday 6am

### **26<sup>th</sup> May - Club night**

Two club trips went to the northern South Island region this Easter – a climbing trip to Nelson Lakes National Park and a tramping trip to 1000 Acre Plateau and Matiri Valley. Come and see the slides of the other half of the trip reported in this issue - the climbing trip to Mt Hopeless in Nelson Lakes National Park.

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

### **29<sup>th</sup> May - Cycle trip**

Tired of walking? Oil the chain, pump up the tyres and join Graham for a days cycling. He guarantees no muddy tracks this time.

Leader: Graham Peters Pn.65581  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: Sunday 8am

### **28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> May - Mid Ruahines**

A weekend trip in the bush and along the tops. The trip heads up the Oroua River to Triangle Hut, over Whanahuia Range and out past Rangiwahia Hut.

Leader: Phil Clerke Ph.82041  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: Saturday 7am

Coming up

June 14<sup>th</sup> Club night - Photo Competition

Time to get those photos developed and entered into the annual competition.

Categories - Flora and Fauna  
- Landscape  
- Topical

### **NOTICES**

- 1) Change of address  
John Barkla and Marilyn Barnard - War Memorial Hall Flat, Watt St, Wanganui Ph. 52373

2) We would like to congratulate the following people who were elected to club positions at the AGM

President:	John Wright	Ph.64258
Vice -President:	Linda Rowan	Ph. 64655
Secretary:	Trevor Bissell	Ph. 73543
Treasurer:	Peter Wiles	Ph.86894
Committee:	Urs Schupbach	Ph.80245
	Tricia Eder	Ph.70122
	Sally Hewson	Ph 73542
	Phil Clerke	Ph 82041
	Alan Mountfort	Ph 69715
	Jenny Dymock	Ph 79649

We would also like to thank the out going president Linda Rowan for a fine job and keeping club nights and committee meetings running smoothly and efficiently. Linda will be staying on as Vice-president. Also thanks to retiring committee member and publicity officer for 1987 Cheryl Peters.

#### Duties

Trip Convenors	- John Wright/Urs Schupbach
Social Convenor	-Tricia Eder
Newsletter Editor	- Jenny Dymock
Printer	- Peter Wiles
Mailer	- Sally Hewson
Membership Convenor	- Tricia Eder
Publicity Officer	- Linda Rowan '
Conservation Officer	- Phil Clerke
Gear Custodian	- Daryl Rowan
Overdue trip contacts	- Vaughn and Kathy Crow
	- Trevor Bissell
	- Daryl and Linda Rowan

Search and Rescue delegates - Alan Mountfort  
-Phil Budding

3) Subs will remain at last years level and are now due.

Adults \$16

Family \$20

Junior \$8

These can be paid to Peter Wiles at club night or sent to the Secretary C/- P.O. Box 1217 Palmerston North.

4) Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - Russell Braddock recently returned from Patagonia will give a public lecture entitled "From the Copland Pass to Cerro Torre"

Venue: Rangitane Pavilion, Civic Centre

Time: 7.30 pm

Admission \$1

5) Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June –Bob McKerrow, former director of Anakiwa Outward Bound School will be speaking to the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club on - Life in the Arctic Circle, Eskimo Culture and his part in a North Pole expedition. Club members are invited to attend.

Venue: Rangitane Pavilion, Civic Centre

Time: 8pm

6) For sale

- 1 pair of Salewa 'Everest' fully adjustable crampons

-1 Chouinard 75cm ice axe

Gear in good condition. Offers - phone Allen 74975.

6) Arbour Day 1988 "Save the trees"

The Rangitikei District of the Department of Conservation are promoting a practical conservation campaign to control the climber Clematis vitalba which is strangling native vegetation in many of our reserves. DOC is looking for volunteers to supervise parties of school children who will be attacking the; weed with secateurs, loppers and clippers on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. The children will be briefed on how to recognise the weed. Please contact Trevor Bissell (Ph. 73543) if you are interested in helping with this worthwhile project. Why plant more trees when we should be saving the ones we have got.

## TRIP REPORTS

### 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 1987 - 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1988 - Christmas Trip Mt Aspiring National Park

On our arrival at Makarora near the Haast Pass after a 22 hour marathon journey we were too tired to think and slept out under the bushes near the township. The following day (28<sup>th</sup> Dec) we sorted out the gear and consigned the food dump into 3 large plastic drums kindly lent to us by Julian Dalefield. The drums were left; with the jet boat operator for delivery to Kerin Forks in the Wilkin Valley. Trevor delivered the van to Wanaka for safe keeping and returned on the NZR bus. By 2pm we were all delivered by jet boat to the junction of the Makarora and Young Rivers. We walked up the Young Valley on a track through open beech forest and fly camped on large grassy flat at the junction of the North and South branches of the Young.

The next day's walk was along a track through forest up the true left of the South Branch. By the time we reached the grassy hanging basin at the head of the valley the weather was wet and very windy. Fortunately a very nice hut on the lip of the basin provided shelter for the afternoon and the evening. Next day dawned misty but calm. The mist cleared during the 2000 foot climb to the ridge crest south of Gillespie's Pass and allowed us to appreciate the very precipitous nature of the country. By the time we had descended the long grassy slopes to the Young Basin the weather was hot. The Young Basin was a hanging basin with steep bushed slopes below. A good track, led through the bush down to the Siberia Stream. This emerged onto the valley floor in the middle of an extensive grassy flat, which extended for 4 km both up and downstream. We camped nearby.

New Years Eve followed. Urs, Ruth, Reint and Trevor climbed Mt Dreadful at 6650 feet from the junction of the north and south branches of the Siberia at the head of the flat. Alan, Simon, Janet, Sally, Tricia and Ross visited the Crucible Lake situated in yet another hanging valley and directly under the highest mountain in the area, Mt Alba.

On New Year day the party wandered down the flats past Siberia Hut and the airstrip. From the bottom of the flats the track led through the bush and sidled high above the stream until it reached the slopes of the Wilkin Valley. Here it descended steeply to emerge at Kerin Forks. Urs and Ruth; raced off down the valley and located the black plastic drums of food just inside the-bush-opposite-the-lone-tree-by-the-edge-of-the- river. They had nearly finished sorting out 10 piles of food and fuel by the time the rest of us had arrived.

Under the crippling weight of our heavier packs we set off up river to a good crossing near Kerin Forks Hut. The struggle continued throughout the afternoon eventually ending at Jumboland Flats beneath Oblong Peak. Here we camped under the trees and balloons on what must be an island when the river is in flood. The smoke from the fire helped discourage the numerous sandflies.

The next morning Urs, Alan, Trevor, Reint and Simon climbed to at least 6500 feet on Oblong Peak but elected not to ascend a steeper section between some small ice cliffs. Another mindless slog up river followed to the junction at the north and south branches of the Wiikin. Most people visited lakes Diana and Lucidus in the north branch during the following day. Even Trevor washed in the lake (as a result of some threats). Castor and Pollux, both over 8000 feet above sea level, dominated the area and provided audio-visual entertainment with the odd avalanche.

We set off early the next morning up the south branch track with the threat of the Waterfall Face and Rabbit Pass very much in mind. After 2-3 hours of hard work we left the bush and scrub behind and entered yet another hanging basin. A long grassy valley led to the face. After some difficulties resulting from starting too far to the left we attained the correct route which eventually traversed along a secure ledge to the right to bring us out 200 feet above the top of the waterfall. A gentle valley led to Rabbit pass itself looking over bluffs to the east branch of the Matukituki River 2000 feet below. We then went east up a narrow ledge cum valley above the bluffs for a further 1.5 kms and 600 feet higher to a gut which led down between the bluffs. A rocky step in the gut proved a little tricky and packs were passed down from hand to hand. The weather was overcast by now with a cold wind which added to our tiredness and despondency. By late afternoon we had descended the long grassy slopes below, scrub bashed into the stream and boulder hopped downstream to the flats. It was raining heavily by now and all felt too lethargic to set up the flies so we continued on downstream where Ruth Hut was marked on the map as 5km further on. After 3km our slow pace and the onset of a narrow section of the river provided the incentive to camp (it had stopped raining anyway).

The next day was an easy doddle down to Ruth Flat where no hut has existed for at least 15 years. The flies were pitched by mid-morning and Ruth and others climbed the first 2400 feet of Ruth Ridge for views upstream to Rabbit Pass. The following day's route lay down the true left of the Bledisloe Gorge (referred to as "bloody slow" in Moir's Guide Book). A sometimes indistinct track, climbed through the bush to the snow grass on the true-left hand side, of the valley. This high vantage point gave excellent views of the spectacular Kitchener Cirque and the Turnbull Thomson Falls which drain a lake below the cirque. Plenty of time remained so most of the party snoozed off after lunch. A high standard track led down to Junction Flat below the Bledisloe Gorge. Here the last camp of the trip was erected .

The next morning Ross and Trevor left early to retrieve the van from Wanaka and everyone else walked out later on. Simon and Alan first detoured up Rainbow Stream to Aspiring Flat to see the Rock of Ages Biv. and the base of the Turnbull Thomson Falls. We stayed in the Motor camp at Wanaka that night in the rain and drove through the Haast Pass and up

the West Coast the next morning. After the heavy rain numerous spectacular waterfalls cascaded off the hillsides above the Haast River and one showered the road. After a night at the Bissell mansion in Hokitika it was back to the Ferry and home.

Party: Trevor Bissell, Urs and Ruth Schupbach, Janet Baird, Ross Goodman, Reint den Boer, Sally Hewson, Tricia Eder, Alan Mountfort and Simon McCracken.

### **13<sup>th</sup> March – Mangahao, Tararua**

It was my second attempt at taking a trip in the Dundas Ridge area and this one actually got underway. Alan picked me up around 6am and we drove out to Shannon as the sun sneaked up behind the Ruahines. Our intention was a circuit leaving the Upper Mangahao Reservoir, up the Mangahao River, on to the Dundas Ridge from Harris Creek and descending via the Puketurua Track.

By 10am we had crossed Harris Creek and were climbing up towards West Peak on the Dundas Ridge. The forest thinned as we gained altitude but the weather also changed. Our clear morning seemed a long time ago and increasing wind and rain finally forced us back before reaching West Peak. Back down through the leatherwood and bush lawyer infested forest. Sometimes we were on a track but more often than not we slid, tripped and scrambled our way through the wet rotten undergrowth.

Back in the Mangahao Valley our biggest obstacle faced us – Harris Creek. Four hours ago it was nothing more than a trickle now it was a raging torrent. We abandoned our first attempt at crossing it – too strong and swift. After much contemplation and discussion of alternatives we tried another crossing further upstream. The water tugged at our legs and surged around us at waist level but ever so shakily we made our way across, each providing essential support for each other.

Our last two hours were spent trudging in the pouring rain. The spillway at the dam was in full force and very spectacular. It gave us an indication of the quantity of rain falling in the area.

We were: John Wright and Alan Mountfort.

### **27<sup>th</sup> March - Kahuterawa Valley**

Sunday morning dawned calm and sunny with clear views down the ranges. We left Palmerston North at the indolently late hour of 9am for the short trip south out of the city. At the road end we came across El Presidente John Choice Wright, who'd obviously risen much earlier to bump his way all along the metal on his bicycle.

It was just perfect for a peaceful stroll. We crossed the bridge and strolled gently upwards under bush cover, listening to the stream alongside us, and enjoying the sunlight sneaking down between the leaves. One young man soon discovered the delights of MUD but his youthful enthusiasm was quietly controlled by his parent. Oh Gee Dad!

An hour and ten minutes later we reached the top arid decided we'd have to descend part of the way before we could justify eating such an early lunch! A brief lesson on bush lawyer was had by several. I've discovered its name now folks Rubus schmidelioides or Tataramoa (Either could be useful to swear at it if you ever have the misfortune to become entangled in it!).

It was good to have so many prospective club members with us. We hope to see you again soon! A pleasant morning stroll with friendly company was had by all - Gordon Derricott, Marion Smith and two friends, Gavin Rogerson, Dave Orbell and two boys, Anne Young, Ruth Schupbach and Margaret Riordan.

P.S. Warning! Dawdling at the back on the way down can have disastrous consequences when Ruth is leading - on your return you may well find you have been delegated the trip report.

### **31<sup>st</sup> March - 5<sup>th</sup> April: Matiri Valley and Range**

We shared transport with Urs's climbing trip to the Nelson Lakes National Park; it consisted of the Newmans Bus to Wellington, the Picton ferry and a mini van hired from De Luxe Motors in Blenheim. The bus arrived at the ferry terminal 40 minutes late, giving Trevor stomach ulcers, but the ferry was also late so we were not stranded in Wellington. Helen picked up the van and met us in Picton. Only she had signed on as a driver. Urs's party were delivered to the public shelter at St. Arnaud at 1 am Friday and we finally set up camp by the roadside in the Matiri Valley after 2 am. Heavy rain and problems with tent flies ensured all of the males had wet gear - the females all slept in the van.

Despite the rain the Matiri was still low at day break. Farmer John McKenzie at the road end thought that the West Branch of the river, which we had to cross, would not be high. Not so. We waited 5 hours by its bank during which we watched a desperate crossing by two parties of shooters and dogs. Eventually our seven teamed up with four others and crossed on a single pole in a reasonably safe fashion. By evening we were camped in fine weather at the head of Lake Matiri. An earthquake in 1969 caused a number of massive slips in the Matiri Valley which produced a series of lakes.

Next morning we climbed a track which led up onto the 1000 Acre Plateau. This consists of gentle rolling grass country at 3,500 feet above sea level which extends for approximately three kilometres and is up to 3 kilometres wide. It consists of a

layer of mudstone over limestone and is ringed by long vertical bluffs. The neighbouring Mt. Misery Plateau supports a bluff with no break for 4 kilometres. We camped by Larrikins (or Larrikans) Hut at the north end; an attempt to scale The Haystack (off route) resulted in fun and games with mist and bluffs.

The Needle and The Haysatack with their interconnecting ridge form a barrier at the north end of the plateau. The recommended (?) route to the Matiri Range to the north lay over a saddle near the Needle, down a tributary to its junction with Haystack Creek, 1 km up the creek then over a low bushed spur to the north to a large clearing and Haystack Hut. A Forest Service (pre DOC) pamphlet suggested the trip from Larrikins Hut to Haystack Hut would require 4 hours. Our intention was to ignore Haystack Hut and continue up the Creek to the range itself; we would then use another recommended route down a stream to the Matiri Valley and spend the night at McConchies Hut.

From the saddle under the Needle a combination of difficult descents, thick scrub, boulders and waterfalls ensured our diversion to Haystack Hut after a 9 hour grovel. We had to be at Lake Matiri the following evening or we would miss the 2.20 pm sailing of the Ferry the following day; we left the hut at 6.15 am. The morning scenes from the top of the range above the hut were beautiful and easy travel to our drop off point caused our spirits to rise. A steep spur gave good access to a grassy hanging basin in the head of our stream. We chose a bush spur from the basin which unfortunately ended in a large bluff.

Our second attempt from the grass continued further along our original spur and down a large slip. After 2 false leads we found a way through some smaller bluffs for a late lunch (20 minutes) in the stream. A further 2 hours of boulder hopping brought us to the super tracks in the Matiri Valley. A forced march took us 8 kilometres down river to the Lake Matiri Hut by 9.30 pm. Fun and games occurred after dark when trying to find the track again after crossing large grassy clearings, some of which were bogs.

The crossing of the West Branch of the Matiri on the way out the next day was an anticlimax as it was barely 1 foot deep.

Party: Helen Dakin, Tricia Eder, Sally Hewson, Bill Frecklington, Reint den Boer, John Thomson and Trevor Bissell.